Execs caught unprepared for disaster

By Inquirer Northern Luzon

LA TRINIDAD, BENGUET—AS NATURE'S fury was unleashed through massive landslides in Benguet and widespread flooding in Pangasinan on Thursday and Friday, local government officials were shocked by the extent of the devastation in their areas.

As the weather started to improve on Saturday, many local officials said the disaster had caught them unprepared.

Benguet officials were everywhere during and after the onslaught of "Pepeng" as a tropical depression—giving assistance to victims and leading rescue operations—but they acknowledged they were ill-prepared for the extent of the damage.

The Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) said it would need over a billion pesos to repair and rebuild roads and bridges damaged by Pepeng and Tropical Storm "Ondoy."

Initial reports from regional DPWH offices showed that the agency would need about P1.43 billion to repair the damaged and destroyed infrastructure in Luzon, according to Public Works Secretary Hermogenes Ebdane Jr.

EXECS A6

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Cainta town in Rizal suffers P100M in infrastructure damage due to "Ondoy"

ACROSS / A13

E. Samar starts scheme to bring back evacuees

WORLD / A20

UN says fraud widespread in Afghan poll

SPORTS / A16

Tiger perfect as US upends Int'l team

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Tuesday, October 13, 2009 ★★ 5 sections / Vol. 24 / No. 307 P18

Father Mick: A fighter for victims of injustice

By Ma. Cores P. Dayo and Inquirer Mindanao

TWO MONTHS SHY OF 80, IRISH priest Fr. Michael Sinnott has worked as a missionary in the Philippines for more than four decades, devoting the last few years helping disabled children, whether Christian or Muslim.

FATHER A7

SINNOTT has spent 55 years serving the poor. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Irish missionary abducted in Pagadian

By Jubo S. Aliputo and Ryan D. Rosauro
Inquirer Mindanao

ZAMBOANGA CITY—THE IRISH priest had just had dinner and was strolling on the lawn of the convent when armed men burst in, threatening to use him.

Before anyone in the religious compound could do anything, the intruders had seized Irish missionary Michael Sinnott, hustled him into a van and fled on a boat in the latest attack on a foreign missionary in Mindanao.

The apparently well-planned kidnapping took place in the compound of the Missionary Society of St. Columban in Pagadian City at around 7 p.m. Sunday, police said.

As of yesterday afternoon, authorities said they still had no firm clues as to who were responsible.

Policemen gave chase but failed to catch up with the armed group. Instead, they found the kidnappers' getaway van on fire.

"The reason, probably, for burning the vehicle was to distract our law enforcers who were pursuing them," Chief Supt. Angelo Saraglas, police

MAIN A9

Dam managers face raps

San Roque spill blamed for floods

By Nikko Dizon

WATER EQUIVALENT TO A BILLION BALIKBAYAN boxes tumbling at the rate of 5,000 cartons per second hit 10 hapless towns in Pangasinan on Thursday when the San Roque dam spillways were opened amid a storm drenching and swirling floodwaters, scientists say.

Now, administrators of the dam owned by National Power Corp. (Napocor) and operated by the San Roque Multipurpose Project (SRMPP) are going to be clobbered with various criminal and civil suits being prepared by irate residents and provincial officials.

Gov. Amado Espino Jr. yesterday said the provincial government was hiring San Roque officials to court for the widespread destruction that last week's flooding worsened with the opening of the spillways.

"I have asked our lawyers to prepare a suit," Espino said.

For people to visualize how much water was released from the dam, Catherine Abon, a geologist from the University of the Philippines and member of Agham, an organization of local scientists, said that one cubic meter of water was much like one balikbayan box.

DAM MANAGERS A8

With odd climate, experts suggest altering lifestyles

By Christian V. Esguerra

SEEDS ARE SOWN DURING THE rainy season, then yield a bounty three months later. Classes start in June and students look forward to a hot summer break come March. Sweaters go on sale as Christmastime nears, then are tucked away in the closet for most of the year.

Imagine a world where all these predictable cycles no longer apply.

With extreme weather conditions now baffling scientists and posing a challenge to policy makers, it's probably time to reexamine traditional notions about the country's weather patterns—and ultimately, their influence on the Filipinos' way of life.

A government scientist yesterday broached the idea as Malacañang called for a "multistakeholder" convention to be held later this month to come up with an effective, consolidated response to natural calamities.

"Climate uncertainty is now more of the rule rather than the

WITH GOOD A8

PORK LIFT Residents of Barangay Taloy Sur, Tuba, Benguet, watch the hoisting of slaughtered pigs on a cable trolley. A landslide has blocked the usual route of food supplies to their community. EVERT GONZALES/INQUIRER NORTHERN LUZON

Food, gas finally reach Baguio

By Inquirer Northern Luzon

BAGUIO CITY—DRESSED chicken, pork and containers of gasoline were strapped to a pulley yesterday so they could be taken over a 60-meter breach on Marcos Highway and ease food and fuel shortages in this city isolated for days by flooding and landslides.

Since Saturday, traders have been working to resupply Baguio with goods from Metro Manila after landslides triggered by Tropical Storm "Pepeng" blocked the three main access roads to the city—Marcos Highway, Nagsilitan Road and Kennon Road.

Government officials had wanted to beef up the city's food supplies, but the emergency residents of Tuba, Benguet, moved earlier, setting up the pulley system to haul meat and fish from Pangasinan and La Union and containers of gasoline strapped to a long cable.

Engineers and volunteer workers opened a lane of Kennon Road on Sunday afternoon, a day earlier than the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) had promised President Macapagal-Arroyo.

The city government then asked supply trucks to queue on the road at midnight because of anticipated heavy traffic from motorists leaving the city and residents resuming lagas.

FOOD A6

Devotees find favorite Marian images on exhibit

MARIAN DISPLAY Devotees view the statues of the Virgin Mary during the ongoing Grand Marian exhibit at the Mall of Asia in Pasay City. RON CASTRO

By Dona Z. Pazzibugan

FROM A SEPTUAGENARIAN who believes she was miraculously given a new lease on life to a preschooler who could barely say "Mama Mary," Filipinos of different backgrounds and ages sought out their favorite image of the Blessed Virgin Mary at an exhibit organized by Radio Veritas.

Liza Devenmanda, 73, wept as she came across a life-size image of the Our Lady of Pilar, one of the 200 Marian images presented at the 4th Grand Marian Exhibit ongoing at the SM Mall of Asia in Pasay City.

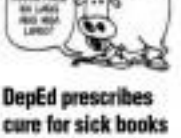
"Wow, I finally found you," she cooed in Filipino.

A Marian devotee, Devenmanda said that for many years, she had been wanting to organize a pilgrimage to the shrine of the miraculous icon near Tagaytay City in Cavite.

"She answered all my prayers. I was able to change my life for the better. I am so grateful, I could cry," she said in Filipino.

Calista Feyarido, 21, like many others who went inside the exhibit area, took pictures of several of the Marian images. He said he would print these pictures and put them on his home altar.

DEVOTEES A4



DepEd prescribes cure for sick books

By Philip C. Tubeza

SPEERS ARE NOT INSECTS, Pinoy is not a province and Robert Louis Stevenson did not write a novel titled "The Kidnapper."

Vindicating "sick books" crusader Antonio Calipjo Go, the Department of Education (DepEd) has released a 28-page

DEPED A4

WEATHER FORECAST

Second FRONTPAGE

EZ2
19 13 | 22 21 | 22 10

SUERTRES
2 3 8 | 5 3 1

FOUR DIGIT
3 1 8 8 | 6 8 0

MEGALOTTO 6/45
10 14 16 19 25 38
₱9,039,402.00

COSTLY AFTERMATH Residents of Bondoc, Pangasinan, look for something to salvage after rampaging floodwaters swept away their homes at the height of Typhoon "Pepeng." EDDA SANTOS/INQUIRER

Metro looks south for veggie supplies

By Kika T. Chikiamco

THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE (DA) IS scrambling to secure vegetable products from the Visayas and Mindanao to supply Metro Manila's needs as heavy damage to roads and bridges in the wake of the recent storms has severely constricted the delivery of produce from Central and northern Luzon.

Agriculture Secretary Arthur Yap told reporters that upland vegetables grown in Benguet, the Cordillera and Mt. Province could not reach Metro Manila because landslides and flooded roads made major roads virtually impassable.

He also noted that lowland vegetable producers in Pinducan, Nueva Ecija, Laguna and Cavite had also been hit hard by the storms and floods.

Together, the areas supply about 70 percent of Metro Manila's vegetable needs.

As a result of the delivery problems, the prices of vegetables have dramatically risen, sometimes by as much as five times.

In its effort to replenish Metro Manila's supply, the DA has contracted 45 metric tons (MT) of vegetable deliveries from the Visayas and Mindanao.

"Prices are good in Metro Manila so suppliers outside of the area are encouraged to deliver here," Yap said.

DA-accredited suppliers in Cagayan de Oro and Bukidnon belonging to the North Mindanao Vegetable Association would be delivering 10 MT of vegetable within two days, Yap said.

Producers in Davao City and Davao del Sur are shipping 15 MT, from to Divisoria Market and Farola Complex, 5 MT and suppliers in Cebu, 5 MT. Yap said producers in Quezon would deliver 15 MT.

Aside from the 45 MT of vegetables expected to be delivered soon in the week, Yap said, suppliers in Nueva Vizcaya had also committed to make available an additional 30 MT of vegetables every day.

However, Yap warned, vegetables from the Visayas and Mindanao might cost slightly higher due to shipping costs.

"We know that this is not a normal situation. There really is difficulty in getting the deliveries, so whoever has the supply can command good prices. But the prices should not be unreasonably high," Yap said.

He also said that the DA "is not ready to recommend a price ceiling."

Despite the supply constraint, Yap said, the government was not yet inspecting vegetables.

"We have not implemented anything on importation because we can still pull stocks from other local sources," Yap said.

He said deliveries could return to normal in one to two weeks.

Give students a free pass—Chiz

PRESIDENTIAL ASPIRANT SEN. Francis "Chiz" Escudero yesterday urged educational officials to allow teachers to give their students passing marks this grading period at semester-to-all levels, in the wake of tropical storm "Ondoy" and typhoon "Pepeng," which adversely affected many pupils.

"The semester is almost over and switching now may give learners that were harmed by the youth in this calamity," Escudero told reporters.

He said giving the students a free pass could also help relief and rehabilitation efforts, inviting their many students did volunteer work after the storms.

Escudero pointed out that like others, students too were traumatized by the floods.

Should the Department of Education and Commission on Higher Education not favorably on his appeal, Escudero said it would not be the first time such wholesale passing happened.

He said that during the people Power uprising in 1986, teachers gave passing marks to their students in the midst of the political crisis.

"That was not a crisis that had to do with the environment," he said.

Escudero also said he was hoping for new making any announcement about his political plans for next year.

"It's not right to talk about politics while many of our people are still missing, have no houses to return to, and have no food to eat," he said. Christine O. Avendaño

After the flood, a family must contend with rat-borne disease

AFTER LIVING THROUGH THE NIGHT-mare of having to spend 16 disturbed hours on the roof of their flooded home in Rizal province at the height of Tropical Storm "Ondoy," the Isaro family is now faced with the peril of disease.

Leptospirosis, a serious illness usually contracted by exposure to floodwaters contaminated with the urine of infected rats and other animals, has left award-winning storyteller Dyali Isaro and her family with a continuing fever tale. Her husband, Mike, continues to battle the illness that he contracted at the height of Ondoy.

Mike, 29, an employee of the Marikina City government, remains confined at the San Lazaro Hospital three weeks after the flood.

The area where they live at Isla Costa V in Bahayang-Lupa was among the worst hit by the floods brought by Ondoy.

Dyali told the Inquirer that aside from her husband, neighbors also contracted leptospirosis. "The floodwaters in our area reached the roof. There was no way of avoiding contact with it," she said.

Symptoms appear after 4 to 14 days of incubation. These include flu-like symptoms and abdominal pain that usually appear in two stages.

"Two weeks ago, Mike had a fever for two days. He thought he was cured but the fever returned on Tuesday last week and he also started to complain of abdominal pains and heaviness in the lower extremities," Dyali said. Apart from the flu-like symptoms, Mike also had diarrhea, was vomiting, and had a reduced output of urine. Jeannette I. Andrade

GK heroes leave no one behind during calamity

By Michael Lim Ubac

"WALANG IWANAN ELEVE no one behind."

With this mantra, thousands of Ground Kalinga (GK) volunteers, coordinators and donors paid tribute on Saturday to those who lent a helping hand to GK's relief operations for victims of Tropical Storm "Ondoy."

And with northern and Central Luzon still reeling from the devastation of Typhoon "Pepeng," GK founder Tony Meloto and executive director Jade Angeles vowed to continue giving aid to flood victims in Zambales and Baguio City, among other places still submerged in floodwaters.

Ground Kalinga, which means "to give care," is dedicated to helping poor families build their own homes. Founded by the Catholic group Couples for Christ in 1995, it promotes a community development model hailed by volunteers as the spirit of "bayanihan (cooperation)."

The message of hope amid the sea of destruction, death and despair that submerged Luzon over the past two weeks was the theme of "GK Expo 2009" held at Fort Bonifacio in Taguig City.

"We will rise from the flood-stricken because we are here to help one another," said Meloto in the GK volunteers.

But yesterday's expo is the sixth held by the movement to pay tribute to volunteers and donors from all walks of life—the military, former slum dwellers now "homeowners," donor companies, legislators and Metro Manila mayors.

In 2000, "GK777," the vision of building 700,000 homes in 7,000 communities in seven years was launched at the first GK Expo.

The late former President Corazon Aquino declared that "GK is lifestyle forever."

At yesterday's expo, Meloto said enemy-soldiers bills from GK commandos emerged as heroes in the recent calamity.

"Those who received help were the ones who willingly helped their neighbors," he said, adding that 95 residents of GK communities in Hagonoy, Marilenas, helped about 10,000 distressed families in nearby areas.

"We are quickly inspiring one another to help," he said.

Vice President Noli de Castro added his voice to the ardent call for volunteerism.

"Nasa mas ang mangyari, walang iwanan (Whatever happens, leave no one behind)," De Castro said.

He paid tribute to the ordinary people who persisted while helping their neighbors or the height of "Ondoy's" onslaughts.

In his remarks, Ongpitos said the biggest tragedy" was not Ondoy or Pepeng, but the elded poverty in the country.

"Many are still living in the slums, homeless, landless," he said.

Ongpitos exhorted GK's vision to end poverty for five million Filipinos in 20 years.

"We will miss the bar from relief to done-up to assist," he said, explaining that rescue meant "educating people from dangan zones" instead of allowing them to return to their dilapidated homes as "in and out for the next disaster."

From Oct. 25, GK will feed 1,200 children from flooded areas twice a day until December 8, he said. Christine Avenue

THE BUDDHIST LIGHT FOUNDATION donated eight cans of aid for the victims of the storm that hit the Philippines. Taiwan's representatives to the Philippines Donald C. T. Lee (second from left) and Ms. Isabel Dinio Guiterrez of the Manila Economic and Cultural Office in Taipei received the goods that were shipped by the Taiwan Air Force.

Pinoy cops gold in Asean-Korea tilt

SEOUL—A STUDENT FROM THE Philippines topped the 11 points in the photography category of the first Asean-Korea Multimedia Competition held here last week.

Aspiral Vitasso of the Polytechnic University of the Philippines won gold in the photography category. He was congratulated by Philippine Ambassador to Seoul Luis T. Cruz.

Tied for second in the same category were Kawsar Bin Myungyun and Shin Dayhoon Singapore.

The competition, co-sponsored by the Asean-Korea Center in cooperation with the embassies of the 10 Asean countries in Seoul. The Korea Herald/Asia News Network

Devotees find favorite Marian images on exhibit

From page A1

He was, however, looking for a particular image of the Virgin Mary in white and blue that he saw in a dream last week. Propaldo said he did not see her face but he was sure it was "Mama Mary."

"I had just been attending Mass," he said in Filipino.

Asked how long it has been since he heard Mass, he answered: "Months."

Even a child knows

Only 3 years old, Princess Margaretch Vega knows the mother of Jesus Christ like she knows her parents.

While other parents had to take their young children's hand to touch the images, Princess, while carried by her father, reached out on her own to touch each and every image of the Virgin Mary and made a rudimentary sign of the cross.

Asked why she was touching the icons, the mumbled in Filipino: "Because I pray. That's Mama (Mary)."

Princess knows Mary and Jesus because they take her along when they have Mass, her mother said.

Popular exhibit

Nadia Veritas, for the fourth year, has gathered images of the Blessed Virgin Mary from parishes and personal collections for a public showing.

There is a simple explanation why the exhibit remains vast, varied and popular. The Catholic Church teaches the faithful to ask for Mary's intercession in their prayers to God.

There are huge, elaborate images such as Our Lady of Socorro, the Atlas-esque statue out of a mural plan that took five men to install, to the life-size Pieta, to the one-foot tall Our Lady of Carpasang.

The image of the Our Lady of Caysasay of Batangas was lent by Manila Archbishop Gaudencio Cardinal Rosales who temporarily considers it his personal passion.

Other well-known Marian images are the Our Lady of Manaoag, Our Lady of Peñafrancia, Our Lady of Antipolo, Our Lady of Guadalupe and Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal.

Our Lady of Veritas

There are unique figures, such as Damitson Khatu, an image of a baby Mary in swaddling clothes and La Niña Maria, an image of a child Mary.

There is an resurrection image of Our Lady of the Milk and Good Birth (Nuestra Señora de la Leche y buen Parto), which has Mary breastfeeding the infant Jesus.

"Mistal na Alebong Bigtong Awa," the only Filipino-titled image, is a life-size representation of the Nuestra Señora Beata de la Isla Filipina (Our Lady Queen of the Philippine Islands).

Hard to find is Our Lady of Veritas (Truth) that is positioned at the entrance of the exhibition area, as if beckoning the faithful to come and pray.

If your heart is calm

She is the patron saint of the followers (Kapatalig) of Radio Veritas, according to Sr. Gemma Dela Cruz.

"Unlike the other images here, the Our Lady of Veritas mouth is slightly open, as if [she is] talking to us. If your heart is calm, she will reveal things to you," she said.

To this image, Mary is not holding the Baby Jesus. Instead, her palms are up. "Her hands are not holding Jesus because she already gave Him to us," Dela Cruz said.

Something about Mary

For some people, there are never enough images of Mary.

Delia Cruz said many were looking for Our Lady of Benevolence so they could pray to God through Mary.

"The sick come here and look for Our Lady of Remedios that stands for remedies," she said.

Others were looking for Our Lady of Guadalupe, another Asian icon from a Marian apparition.

Since the exhibit opened last Oct. 6, every day, about 1,000 people come in, De la Cruz said. The number would double during the weekends.

"Mama Mary attracts a lot of people. She's the patroness of Filipinos. We're the only people who call her Mama. She really is our mother," she said.

Giving hope

On the year's exhibit, Fr. Anton Pascual, president of Radio Veritas, said organizers hoped the Marian images would not only inspire the faithful to follow the example of Mary but also renew them to share whatever they have to help the victims of Tropical Storm "Ondoy."

"We hope to get support for the victims of Ondoy," said Pascual, who also heads Caritas Manila, the charity arm of the Archdiocese of Manila.

Also included in the exhibit are 20 Marian and Mother and Child paintings of inmates of the New Bilibid Prisons in Muntinlupa City who are all serving life sentences.

The Lopez Marian Exhibit on the second floor of the SM Mall of Asia was until Wednesday, Oct. 14.

SOME of the images of the Blessed Virgin Mary on exhibit.

Soap Making, Marketing Techniques at SP

The Diamond Skills and Livelihood Training Services will unveil its latest innovative marketing techniques in a one-day workshop. Soap-Making Seminar at University of the Philippines Campus on October 17, 2009, Saturday 10am-3pm. Courses on producing high quality yet low cost products such as powdered detergent, fabric softener, glass and toilet bowl cleaner, dishwashing liquid, nail shampoo, chlorox, hand and herbal bath soap (cucumber, papaya etc.). The training will be at T. Decoro Hall at Parian St., cor Magsaysay Ave., SP Diliman, Quezon City (near SP Theater). For reservations call ALLAN 0908-8925212 or YHANNE 0908-8937102 or 981-0566, 981-8137 and ANNETTE 0918-8218222.

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DepEd prescribes cure for sick books

From page A1

"Teaching Notes" to correct more than 400 errors found in 18 English textbooks issued last year for use of public school students from Grade 1 to Grade 6.

The DepEd also urged the country's 500,000 public school teachers to be "selective" in using books they are used to for regular instructional use.

Education Undersecretary Elina Labrador said the Teaching Notes was the summary of feedback from private individuals, DepEd reviewers, and the authors and editors in cases where their input were necessary.

"This is provided as your guide to improving your instructional materials and correction of the lessons and to correcting errors that may be [found] in the textbooks you are using," Labrador said, referring to the teachers.

English for carabaos

It was Go who exposed the errors in English textbooks when he wrote an Inquirer article titled "English for Carabaos or Pilgo-glish" where the related year opened in June.

Go also listed scores of errors in books for public schools a few years ago.

Education Secretary Jesli Lapus acknowledged the errors in the textbooks and promised to have corrections.

The "Teaching Notes" contained "errors" found in K-8 Publications' "English Expressways 1" and "English Expressways 5" and Book Wise Publishing House's "English for You and Me" textbooks (for Grades 1, 4 and 6).

Feedback from users

Labrador said the textbooks and teachers' manuals passed the four areas of content evaluation and were reviewed by an editorial board before these were printed.

"However, feedback from stakeholders and users necessitates the issuance of the Teaching Notes," she said.

Labrador said the Teaching Notes contained the page numbers and the specific part on the page where the recommended revisions were needed. "More importantly, the revisions are very specific," she said.

Be critical

"We hope that the Teaching Notes will not only serve as your guide, but will also serve as a challenge for you to be more critical of the contents of the textbooks you use. We invite you to inform the DepEd of your comments and recommendations on all the instructional materials the department has provided in your schools," Labrador said.

"Let us work together for the good of the children we serve and our country," she added.

The "errors" covered by the Teaching Notes ranged from poor word choices, awkward sentences and typo errors to redundancies, wrong prepositions, wrong verb tenses, wrong sentences, conceptual errors, wrong illustrations, and factual errors.

One factual error that DepEd found was the description of spiders and insects in "English for You and Me 1."

Spiders not insects

Contrary to popular belief, spiders are arachnids and have eight legs and one body segment, while insects have only six legs and three body segments.

In another "page of the book, spiders were currently described as insects, but the sentence expressing this fact ("Grabers are another kind of insects.") was grammatically wrong.

Another factual error was the statement on Page 39 of "English for You and Me 6" that Pinoy is a "president." It is actually a noun in Davao Oriente.

There are Page 181 of the same book, it was erroneously stated that Bahrer Leon Rivenson wrote "The Kidnappers." The same error was repeated on the next page. The novel was actually titled "Kidnapped."

Bonifacio Day

"English Expressways 5" mistakes Bonifacio Day with National Heroes' Day, while "English for You and Me 6" related a date by a reverse format of the 16th century, the book said 15th century.

Other books contained redundancies, such as the "Chinese of China," wrong prepositions like "the noble on the crucified" (it should be "noble," not "on"), wrong number of nouns, such as "a box of crayon" (it should be crayons), and wrong subject-verb agreements, such as "Which of the following economists tell about the first paragraph of the story?" (it should be "tells.")

Orchids, echo

But "English for You and Me 3," reviewers suggested deleting two entire sentences on Page 187 because they suggested growing orchids from seeds.

"It is not realistic to grow orchids from their seeds," Teaching Notes said.

The reviewers noted a wrong choice of word on Page 114 which said that an echo could be "heard a few minutes after any obstacle." They suggested replacing "minutes" with "seconds."

Another wrong choice of word appeared on Page 69 of the book when one sentence read: "I don't think somebody is here." It should have been "anybody."

But "English for You and Me 3," the reviewers suggested deleting "I will go" from the sentence "The little down a hill and sleeping."

World Bank-funded books

In his article, Go said Book Wise's "English for You and Me" series was published under a loan agreement between the DepEd and the World Bank.

He cited Director Soledad Pilor of the DepEd International Materials Council Secretariat mentioned in June 2008 that "21,285,425 English textbooks for Grades 1 to 6 were purchased by the DepEd for school year 2008-2009 for the amount of P666,677,221.00."

The government paid P583 million for the books from Book Wise, Go said.

Power firm: Blackouts to end soon

THE POWER SUPPLY IN METRO MANILA and Rizal province is expected to return to normal in time for the National Grid Corporation of the Philippines (NGCP) completes repairs on a third transformer at its Dolores substation.

The NGCP has restored two of the substation's four transformers, each capable of delivering up to 200 megawatts of power to power distributor Manila Electric Co. (Meralco).

Both transformers now carry power from 500-kV San Jose-Dolores and Hermosa-Dolores 230-kilovolt lines to Meralco's 115-kV lines. To balance the demand and supply of electricity in Greater Manila, part of the load of the Dolores substation has been shifted to the Zapote, Balintawak and Sucat substations.

NGCP operator of the country's so-called electricity superhighway, said the repair of two of the four 300-megavolt ampere transformers at the Dolores substation could ease the blackouts Metro Manila residents had been experiencing since Wednesday night.

With a forecast demand of 5,000 MW and available generation capacity of 7,640 MW in the Luzon grid, there were no forecasts expected rotating outs Metro Manila.

Under areas of Metro Manila and Rizal were hit by power failure just before 9 p.m. Wednesday last week after one of the transformers in the Dolores substation caught fire. —Amy R. Remo

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Laguna rice fields to stay submerged

SAN PEDRO, Laguna—ABOUT 7,300 hectares of rice-producing areas in Laguna will remain unproductive until the floods brought on by Tropical Storm "Ondoy" recede, according to provincial officials.

The flooding caused by the swollen Laguna de Lake is expected to last for months.

As of Sunday, the provincial agricultural office recorded 58,515 metric tons of rice lost to the flood.

Provincial agriculturist Marlon Telmo said 800 ha of farmland in Mabitac town were still submerged in water, 500 ha in Siniloan and 9 ha in Pila.

Also fields in Pangil, Pila, Lumban and Kalayaan—the rice-producing municipalities in southern Laguna—are also underwater.

The submerged fields lie mostly along the Laguna Lake coastline.

Although the flood in Sta. Maria town has receded, about 1,400 ha of its farmland are stated to be still, the think, solid mud left by the flood.

"The mud is so hard, it will require deep plowing and not by ordinary hand tractors," Telmo said.

He said flour crops in San Pedro were "almost totally" washed out by the rampaging flood and that it would take people until November to dredge the mud about six inches thick.

From the irrigation canals to the town were covered with silt. "If those canals are about one meter deep, the mud is about six centimeters thick," Telmo said.

Laguna gets about 70 percent of its rice requirements from other provinces because its trailblazing travel Instrat Onalayl was only 30 percent.

The damage brought by the flooding has reduced rice production to 21 percent, Telmo said.

He said the damage to agriculture in Laguna would affect the country's rice production as the rice-producing province of Nueva Ecija and Bulacan were also hit by Tropical Storm "Pepeng."

Most of the damaged crops were almost ready for harvest before Ondoy battered Laguna on Sept. 26.

"[If] the flood subsides, the land can easily recover and can be used for planting again," Telmo said. Marivic Cinco, Inquirer Southern Luzon

Food, gas finally reach Baguio City

From page A1

said city administrator Jose Ferro Fianza.

Commuter vans were allowed to travel down Kennon on Sunday night, but local officials imposed a traffic schedule that restricted the road to outbound motorists from 5 a.m. to noon. Motorists going to Baguio were allowed only from noon to 6 p.m.

Old City Baguio yesterday stretched to supermarket with the arrival of supplies of meat, fresh, canned goods, instant noodles and rice from Metro Manila, a mall official said.

Victor Caballas, a spokesperson for a group of market vendors, said food would not be a problem for Baguio in the next three weeks.

Caballas said he was also talking with vegetable traders and farmers in La Trinidad town in Benguet, where failed harvest had been stocked at the vegetable vending post there.

Most stocks had been brought and were due for delivery to Metro Manila markets when the roads were closed. (See related story on Page A2).

"Instead of letting them rot, we asked that they be sold here instead to supplement the supplies," Caballas said.

Prices depend on gas supply

It is question that could affect the prices of Baguio goods in the next few days, he said.

Yesterday, many residents trekked to work after gasoline stations shut down due to lack of supply forcing passenger vehicles off the streets.

It may take weeks to repair Marcos Highway and Bagalihan Road, but the city government will not stop people from taking through dangerous mud ruts and mounds of mud, rocks and debris to leave the city, he said.

"We did [not] people to regulate the hilly, so there is some relief to crossing Marcos Highway," Fianza said. People there crossed in batches of 20.

In Benguet, the four major vegetable producing towns in the province were facing a shortage of basic commodities, including four of 6 point, among residents of roads leading to Baguio remained closed.

Residents of Atok, Bokod, Kibungan and Mankayan were complaining of the lack of sugar, cooking oil, rice, meat and poultry products, according to officials who said they were praying that Mobonta Highway would be opened soon to ease the food shortage.

Gov. Nestor Fongwan said the two municipalities had made 27 kilometers of the Mobonta Highway impassable.

Choppers airlift supplies

Two Huey helicopters yesterday started delivering food and medical supplies to Benguet and Ifugao towns, as vehicles could not penetrate villages there since Friday due to landslides that blocked roads.

The choppers were also bringing relief to Baguio when landslides killed eight people, Fongwan said.

At least 189 people died in landslides and other typhoon-related incidents in Benguet, according to the Provincial Disaster Coordinating Council.

The nationwide death toll from landslides and flooding stood at more than 800 as back-to-back storms that struck provinces northern Luzon on Sept. 26, according to the Associated Press.

The death toll was so high that some mass burial of victims. About Rizal 200 would-be victims assembled in neighboring provinces were reported in Baguio, where mass funerals were planned, said regional disaster director Glen Loreto.

Baguio organized a funeral for a family of eight, including six children, whose bodies were found in Marcos Highway was cleared down by other houses that tumbled down a mountainside late Thursday.

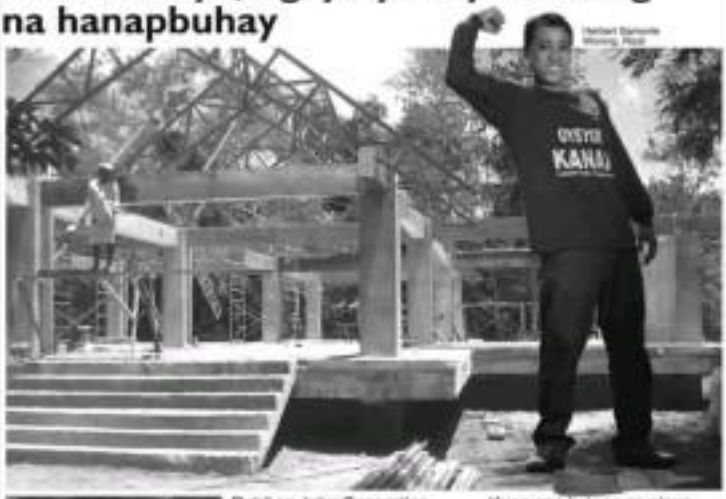
"I am saddened by what happened," said Mildred Ligot, a cousin of Geomen Pinit Pinit, who died with her husband and their children aged 1 to 11.

She said she hadn't seen her cousin in years because they lived in different areas. "And then we met again only now."

Yesterday, President Arroyo distributed relief goods to flood victims in Marcelino and Mounted towns in her 2-day visit to her home province of Pampanga. She was expected to visit more villages affected by the flooding there today and tomorrow. With reports from Vincent Cabreza, Delmer Cariño, Frondi Carreon, Gabriel Gonzales, Cristina Arzadon and Eduardo Sotelo, Inquirer Northern Luzon, and Charlene Gopalcuh, Inquirer Central Luzon, and AP

Kapos sa pinag-aralan, may dangal naman

Dating magsasaka, tapos lang ng elementarya, ngayo'y may matatag na hanapbuhay



Herbert Samonte
Morong, Rizal

Dahil sa Jobs Generation Program na inilunsad ni Secretary Jun Ebdane, isa si Herbert Samonte ng Morong, Rizal, sa libu-libong nabiyayaan ng hanapbuhay.

Binata man si Herbert ay mistula siyang haligi ng tahanan ng kanyang akuin ang responsibilidad na tumayo bilang ama ng kanyang sanggol na pamangkin.

Kung ang kulang sa pinag-aralan at mga kapus-palad na gaya n'ya ay personal na inasikaso ni Jun Ebdane, walang duda na magtatagumpay ang kanyang Pambansang Development Program. Tunay na kakaiba si Jun Ebdane sa mga pulitiko natin. Magaling. Determinado. Subok at bihasa sa development na siyang daan tungo sa kaunlaran.

Di Kayâ si Jun Ebdane ang Tamang Daan sa 2010?

Muslim named peace adviser

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARROYO has appointed a Muslim as her adviser on peace following the resignation of Anwar Sadain Jr. who is planning to run for mayor of Manila.

Undersecretary Sadain, a native of Indanan and a lawyer, yesterday assumed the post of officer in charge of the Office of the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process (OPAPP).

Sadain, a former assistant secretary at the Department of Interior and Local Government, is also between the government and communist rebels.

"All these efforts, of course, should be done in the context of people-centered peace process work, of dialogue, negotiations, of hard work, and of synergy among the various offices and units," Ermita, a former vice governor of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao, said in a statement.

Sadain served as OPAPP undersecretary for five years starting in 1997. He also worked with a non-government organization for two years before returning to OPAPP in 2006.

He is a nominee-chair of the government peace panel negotiating with the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF).

Jocelyn R. Uy

WOW WOW MAWAY Popular TV host Willie Revillame was up the crowd at Dasmariñas National High School in Cavite for Sen. Manny Villar who's running for president next year. This was the third of five shows the two produced together that took steady to the former of Revillame's meanings show "Wowowee." Villar said he and Revillame were going around the country to cheer people up, especially after the calamities that hit Metro Manila and Luzon. (Christopher Ayala)

'Balangay' steady despite storms

KALIBO CITY—ALTHOUGH DELAYED BY the series of devastating storms, the historic sea journey of Team Balangay remains steady and on course.

The "Diwata ng Lahi" (Fairy of the Race) and its crew arrived at the Malay, Philippines' first, terminal at the port of Iloilo late Tuesday afternoon amid Ati-atihan drumbeats.

"We are still here after five storms," Balangay Team leader Arturo Valdez said.

Heading south, they left Manila on Sept. 1 aboard a replica of a pre-colonial boat on a quest to connect the seafaring routes of our ancestors.

The project is a brainchild of the Kaya ng Pinoy Foundation which also organized the first successful Filipino expedition to Micronesia in 2006.

Bohol is their 17th stop, according to team member Jonel Belocurao Sardena, one of two Filipino seamen who climbed Everest.

The 18-by-15-meter balangay, patterned after a 12th century Butuan boat on display at the National Museum in Manila, will be open for public viewing here until Oct. 13 when it is scheduled to sail again.

Because of the storms that battered the country, the voyage has been delayed, Valdez said.

The crew had to seek refuge in the islands and the nearest port two days before each storm would hit.

The team was supposed to finish the Philippine leg of the voyage, reaching Sibuyan Island, Tawi-Tawi by Feb. 28, 2010. Because of the delays, the first part of the voyage would be completed by mid-March next year. Hector P. Bongcac Jr., Inquirer Visayas

House shows its heart, shelves Con-con talks

By Leila B. Salaverria

CONCERNED THAT IT WOULD LOOK "heartless" amid the tragedy and destruction caused by Tropical Storm "Ondoy" and Typhoon "Pepeng," the House appropriations committee yesterday set aside discussions on the recommended P2-billion budget for the operations of a proposed Constitutional Convention starting late next year.

Speaker Prospero Nograles said the lower house was also considering cancelling its Christmas party and donating the money to victims of the disasters. The Senate had earlier announced it would not hold any parties this year.

Both chambers had also agreed to pick up the government's calamity fund from P10 billion to P12 billion.

During the appropriations committee hearing, Akbayan Rep. Risa Hontiveros and Bohol Rep. Teodoro Locsin questioned the propriety of allocating the huge amount of P2 billion for a constitutional convention. "[Con-ass] at a time when the government is struggling to help those who lost loved ones and property.

"We don't seem to see this proposal to be snagged in the constitutional process. It looks like a heartless move to appropriate a large sum of money... Surely there's a way, there could be a supplemental budget somewhere along the line. We have to avoid the image of appropriating for something that's not urgent," Locsin said.

Hontiveros said that before funds are allocated for the convention, lawmakers should first make sure that P30 billion is available for rehabilitation and reconstruction efforts.

La Union Rep. Victor Ortega, who chairs the committee on constitutional amendments, agreed that discussions on the operational budget of a Con-con could be set aside in the meantime.

But he said that a Con-con, which could be convened in 2011, was important because "any improvement in the Constitution would benefit future generations."

The Con-con bill proposes elections for 219 delegates in October 2010.

At any rate, the appropriations committee, chaired by Quirino Rep. Junie Cua, decided to leave it to the next Congress the decision to allocate funds for the convention's operation.

Meanwhile, lawmakers have agreed to speed up discussions on the calamity budget.

Sen. Edgardo Angara, chair of the Senate finance committee, said yesterday that the proposed P10-billion supplemental budget for calamities would be increased to P12 billion. With reports from Christine O. Avendaño and Gil Cabacungan Jr.

Rebels line up for military aid, too

TYPHOON "PEPENG" HAS SHOWERS A truce between communist rebels and the military.

Armed forces of the Philippines personnel claimed roaring waves of New People's Army members are terrorizing communities downwind of rolled goods delivered by the military.

The NPA members were from typhoon-hit Cagayan Valley and Isabela, AFP spokesperson Lt. Col. Romeo Brawner Jr. told reporters yesterday.

Despite the sightings, Brawner said the military would not make a move to arrest the rebels.

"There are no enemies in times like this. We also have to help them out," he said.

Defense Secretary Gilbert Teodoro Jr. had announced earlier the suspension of military offensives against communist rebels in provinces worst hit by Pepeng.

On Sunday night, Army troops rescued supplied with to Marikina, Pasig and Cainta—the areas worst hit by floodwaters brought by Tropical Storm "Ondoy" on Sept. 26—to divert efforts to northern Luzon. Jocelyn R. Uy

Dam managers face raps for release of water

Front page A1

The San Roque Dam in San Manuel town releases an average of 922.8 cubic meters per second, the said.

When dam officials finally decided to open the spillway gates of the reservoir before the dams level, reached the critical level, they practically increased the average flow by "more than twofold," Alhon said.

"Based on our computation, it was unbelievable that with 5,000 cubic meters released per second, it was like having a lot less fieldthrone boxes dumped on Pangasinan in a day," said Alphon Alan Giovanni Tapang, who is also with the University of the Philippines' National Institute of Physics.

A fieldthrown box measures five feet by two feet. If it is stapled, freight cost is based on size. If unstapled, it is weighed.

In a press conference organized by the leftist Bayang Magsasaka Mahalimnan (Bulosan), Tapang wondered why the many swollen houses increased the spilling level of San Roque Dam from 280 meters to 286 meters.

"Before, at 280 meters, the San Roque Dam would already release water. Why did they have to wait for 286 meters like this," Tapang said. Storm "Winnie"? Tapang said.

Tapang also questioned the seemingly delayed release of water from the dam.

"As early as Oct. 4, there was already a high spike in water levels in the dam. Why did they release water only on Oct. 7," he said. "I find they just want to gather enough water for its power-generation effect," Tapang said.

No warning

The towns of San Manuel, San Nicolas, Binmaley, Mangaldan, Calasiao, Villasis, Manaoag, Dagupan, Bonuan and Basingbing were under the control from the dam that aggravated flooding as a result of five days of rains brought by Typhoon International name: Pastrol.

Bayang claimed across northern Luzon on Oct. 8 with the force of a typhoon. It landed over the area as a second-and later as a depression (until Oct. 10 when it swept out into the South China Sea.

Provincial officials and residents claimed that they were not warned that the dam's gates would be opened, resulting in deaths and multimillion-peso damage to property and agricultural crops.

The Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) said that as of 10 a.m. yesterday, the San Roque Dam and the Magat Dam in Isabela still had one spillway gate open.

Both the Ambuklao Dam and Binga Dam in Benguet each have two gates open.

Tapang said that as early as 1996, there had already been local and international protests against the construction of the San Roque Multipurpose Dam but the project still went ahead and was completed in March 2003.

Since then, local communities experienced flooding whenever a storm struck and the dam's gates opened, he said.

Destructive gen't projects

"In addition to lack of disaster preparedness, the Arroyo government still pursues policies and destructive projects such as large-scale mining and large dams that destroy our natural environment and make communities more vulnerable and at higher risk to floods, landslides and other disasters," said Clemente Bautista Jr. of the environment group Kalikasan.

San Roque Dam officials have remained mum on the planned dam-wall expansion that is supposed to address the problem, in spite of the province's repeated request for assistance.

Pasion Court of Appeal Associate Justice Teodoro Regino, a resident of Binguan City said he would lead the filing of a class suit against NPC and SPARC.

In 1998, Typhoon "Loleng" left 70 the massive flooding in Pangasinan due to the excess water released from the Binga and Ambuklao dams in Benguet. The cost is now pending at a Baguio City Hall Court in Dagupan.

Rosalio Bituin Rosales Benito, whose town was one of the worst hit, said he was also considering suing the dam officials for "gross in decision making and lack of foresight."

How SPI mall managed

Rosales' business district, where it only opened 1M mall is located, was overlapped by floods that reached as much as four feet.

Farmers and business groups said they would file a separate damage suit against the SMSP other floods destroyed their properties.

"There's too much destruction. It could cause hundreds of millions," said Rosales. Inc, president of the Eastern Pangasinan Filipino Chinese Commerce of Commerce and Industry.

Alexey Mendez, president of the Region 1 Confederation of Agricultural Associations, said several thousands of hectares of rice land were flooded in Binalonan, Villasis, Tarang and other towns. Pangasinan farms, destroying crops and killing farm animals.

"The floodwaters deprived our farmers a source of their livelihood," he said.

Pangasinan Rep. Nicky Aquino, a former governor, said does officials should explain to the people of Pangasinan the apparent suddenness of the water release.

"Believe it or not, if the San Roque Dam was not built, and there is no dam to hold the volunteer from the mountains, the floodwaters could have only been twice as much in volume and destruction," he said.

No-calibrated release

Former Speaker Jose de Venecia Jr. said dam officials should be accountable for the "colossal human" release of water. "Dam should be investigated. They should have been a calibrated release."

Sen. Francis Escudero, a presidential aspirant who visited Pangasinan over the weekend, said he was helping the local officials to pursue a suit against for damages.

"This is a class suit," he told reporters. "So far, there are just a few names there."

Undersecretary Graciano Tamonan of the Department of Science and Technology attributed the 10-day rains that suspension dusted 675 millimeters of rain brought by Peping.

"In fact, basically, would explain why northern Luzon was inundated," he said in a press briefing in Malacañang. "With or without the opening of the dam, there (still) would have been flooding in northern Luzon." With reports from Christine F. Espinosa, Yolanda Fabella and Gabriel Carabinero, Inquirer Northern Luzon

Execs caught unprepared for disaster

Front page A1

Ilocos said roads connecting Pangasinan and La Union provinces would be repaired first.

Many regional roads and infrastructure were destroyed by the storms as were covered by landslides, making travel difficult.

Caught with pants down

Local officials said that what caught them with their pants down were the suddenness and strength of the rains that typified landslides.

Mona, they said, the province's worst hampered rescue efforts.

Members of rescue and disaster response teams said they did not lack training for disaster management.

But like local officials, they said they lacked equipment—from ropes and shovels to rubber boats and bulldozers.

Gov Nestor Fong-son said the province suffered its worst damage in years just because of lack of equipment.

"I am sorry to say it but we were really unprepared," he told the Inquirer.

Benguet has two loaders and a backhoe, but when landslides struck Halsema Highway and other roads at the same time, the equipment were not enough, said Antog Bimay on, a provincial engineer.

Mayor Braguio Bishop (Bokod), Florencio Bautista (Buguias) and Felipe Canuto (Kapangan) activated their towns' disaster councils.

Shovels, pick axes

But disaster response team had to make do with their own shovels and pick axes to clear blocked roads.

Calls for loader and backhoe services managed the Provincial Disaster Coordinating Council (PDCC) at the provincial capitol here, but Fongson told the callers to be patient as the province's loaders were being used in more essential areas.

Good for La Trinidad Mayor Artemio Cabotaje, the town had had its workforce on inspection rubber boat that was earlier donated to the town.

The boat's inspections was never realized until this Typhoon in Barangay Puro was flooded last week, which required transporting stranded families.

Brethren Bayoke, Barangay Pugon chair, said village officials were on top of the removal operations at Little Kibungan.

100 bodies recovered

As of Monday, rescue teams digging through mud, rocks and debris that swamped the mountainside community on Thursday night recovered 109 bodies.

Robert Nimmes, Barangay Bangao chair, said the rescuers were willing to help local officials in retrieving the bodies of 19 villagers who died when landslides buried four houses in his village also on Thursday.

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) is considering a request for ceased by Benguet State University in Barangay Balili as relocation site for families displaced by the massive slide in Barangay Pugon.

Little Kibungan was created in 2003 as a high-hazard area and families there were recommended to be relocated, the DENR said. The residents, however, ignored the warnings and remained in the area.

Here, houses were even built in the area, the DENR said.

In Dangwatan, where repairs that Pinoy would restart to the country, Dangwan City started preparing for the worst.

Mayor Allyn Fernandez Jr. asked the City Disaster Coordinating Council (CDCC) to pool and prepare equipment and stocks of relief goods that would be needed in a worst-case scenario.

"But we never expected that the waters would be this high," said city administrator Alvin Fernandez.

As high as 10 feet

Almost the entire city was under water, with some sections experiencing flood as high as 10 feet. But preparation helped in preventing loss of lives and property, he said.

The city tried to cope amid the lack of water supply in many areas as most running water failed to function during the floods.

In Binalbagan, Mayor Rizaldo Pavida said he was surprised the dams on Thursday morning carrying a megaphone to ask residents in villages along the Agno River to leave.

He again set out to 2 p.m. that day to evacuate the residents. "We even distributed relief goods to those who would not be affected, for them to bring to the evacuation centers. But after getting their goods, they returned to their houses," he said.

Bued Bridge

Rudy Sumait, assistant director of the Bureau of Maintenance, said the Bued Bridge in Pangasinan, which is part of the national highway that links Baguio to La Union, Benet that said Bonn Nuns, summed impassable to vehicles after it collapsed due to the strong current of the Bued River.

In Nueva Ecija, Gov. Aurelio Umali said the province could take care of its rescue and relief operations.

Umali said the provincial government had sent rubber boats to save residents moving toward the rising floodwaters.

At the height of flooding in the province last week, he said the provincial government's mobile kitchens was tapped to serve food to evacuation centers.

What local officials and families did not anticipate, Umali said, was the unprecedented flooding of more than 30,000 hectares of rice land in the province.

In Bicos Nuns, Lucay City Mayor Michael Farinas has ordered local agencies to speed up the rehabilitation of damaged structures like street and traffic lights, school buildings and bridges.

"I want to see these lights up before October ends," Farinas said yesterday.

He said residents whose homes were destroyed could avail themselves of the city's core shelter program under the General Kalinga project.

Duplexes

The city government hopes to build duplexes for Peping victims although the project was intended as a low-cost housing program for city residents.

The city social welfare and development office said 20 families whose houses were destroyed could be relocated to the 80 housing site.

In Bicos Bay, what caused residents were movement and their compliance with orders from local officials to seek safe grounds, Mayor Jovy Vicente Villanueva said the province, which recorded only one typhoon related fatality, was spared from destruction because residents were aware of the incoming storm and they were able to prepare.

Peping was classified as a typhoon Oct. 3. Lingering in the country for days, it made two more landfalls as a storm and subsequently a depression.

Singson family's chopper

Former Gov Luis "Chavit" Singson and his son, Bocot Sun Rep. Ronald Singson, used the family's helicopter to bring help to isolated areas, like the five villages of Santa town.

In Cauayan City emergency response teams composed of city employees, policemen, firemen, barangay officials and volunteers were tapped to evacuate residents. Reports from Delmer Cariño, Frank Cimatu, Nalou Babilonia, Cristina Arnaldo and Jeanelo Bollido Jr., Inquirer Northern Luzon; Anselmo Roque, Inquirer Central Luzon; and Evelina L. Alave in Manila

With odd climate, experts suggest altering lifestyles

Front page A1

exception," said Undersecretary Graciano Tamon of the Department of Science and Technology.

According to Tamon, researchers predict roads—which will include representatives of local and international nongovernmental organizations—would be expected to share "radical" ideas addressing concerns like coastal management, food security, health, infrastructure, work schedules and school calendars.

Lessons no longer applicable

It's probably time to rewrite school textbooks and update national thinking with the climate and the weather with discussions on global warming, Tamon added.

"What we used to teach before is not necessarily applicable now," said the official, who also teaches at the University of the Philippines.

Tamon said local governments, backed by the national government, should come up with their respective measures to reduce the impact of climate change.

"The (current) EI Niño event in the Philippines is supposed to be dry," Tamon noted, referring to the weather phenomenon that is known to cause droughts in Southeast Asia. "But we are very, very wet."

Apec outlook

He cited the "unusual outlook" issued by the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (Apec) Climate Center that predicted "below normal rainfall in the Philippines and Sumatra and eastern Indonesian islands" shortly; Papua New Guinea" from October to December.

But this month alone, Tamon noted, the Philippines was threatened by two major weather disturbances, which dumped some 675 millimeters of rainwater in northern Luzon last weekend.

"Undoy and Peping are basically stone mirrors," he said. "Although some people would not be taking this seriously, this, we think, would actually be evidences related to global warming."

Also yesterday, President Macapagal-Arroyo called for a meeting of the Legislative Executive Development Advisory Council on Thursday "to discuss the causes, costs, and actions to be taken in the wake of disasters brought by Typhoons Undoy and Peping."

"The President is open to all constructive proposals to effectively address our problems collectively as a nation," said Press Secretary Ceres Doyo.

Irish missionary abducted in Pagadian

Frinnapp Ad

chief for Western Mindanao, told the bishops.

Possible angles

Based on a police assessment, the kidnapping had the earmarks of a Cotabato-based kidnap for ransom gang "because they hired the getaway vehicle," Ganghis said.

But Ganghis said the police were not discounting other possibilities. "It can be the Abu Sayyaf, it can be other hired kidnappers or by political motives," he said.

Pagadian Mayor Samuel Co said they were keen on linking gangs, the abductors "would either use this for fund raising, you have election in mind."

The 79-year-old priest was having a walk around the convent—a routine he does after he underwent heart surgery five years ago—when the gunmen struck, Fr. Jose Columban missionary Fr. Sean Manly said in Oranmis City.

A convent employee was about to lock the compound's gate, which is some 20 meters from the house, when two men inched on running over both to Father Mick," as Manly is popularly known.

From the town, the men took Emmett to their vehicle. Some police reports said two gunmen were involved, while others said there were victims.

Ransom a factor!

Manly said the number was unclear. "He being a foreigner might be a factor, thinking they might be able to make money out of him," he said.

Police said the abductors brought Emmett to the coastal village of Sta. Lucia on a motorized outrigger boat.

Maharlika and Church leaders condemned the attack.

At a press conference, Pershing Municipal Agency deputy spokesperson Anthony Soles said "we abhor this kind of crime."

Soles reaffirmed the government's no-ransom policy in dealing with kidnappers.

The military and the police have launched pursuit and intelligence operations.

Reports reaching Camp Aguinaldo said the kidnappers landed by the neighboring Tukuran town after taking the motorboat.

"The only thing we can do right now is intelligence gathering so we can have branch a rescue operation," Armed Forces spokesperson Lt. Col. Ilarraza A. told reporters.

Maj. Gen. Ramon Lumawan, 1st Infantry Division commander, said that as of Sunday night, government troops manning checkpoints had been alerted and reinforcement patrols deployed. "But so far, there have been no sightings," he said.

"Hopefully they will already send their leaders," he said, adding that the group was possibly planning to demand ransom.

PNP units alerted

The Philippine National Police said that its units in Western Mindanao also launched a cooperative operation to track down the kidnappers.

While wary about pinpointing any specific group, the military raised the possibility that they might be linked to the armed men who raided Italian priest Giancarlo Bossi in 2007.

The Zamboanga Peninsula is a known lair of Abu Sayyaf bandits and rogue members of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) and the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF).

Several Catholic bishops appealed for Emmett's immediate release.

Fr. Michael Emmett is a man of peace. The priests, religious and lay people of the Diocese of Pagadian are deeply saddened by his forcible abduction," Pagadian Bishop Emmanuel Cabajar said over radio dyRm.

Manila Auxiliary Bishop Broderick Pabillo said: "Let us respect the people who do God's work."

MILF helping

The MILF said it had mobilized its men to help Philippine security forces in the search for Emmett.

Eid Kabalu, spokesperson for the MILF, told the Inquirer by phone that members of their committee on ceasefire had been directed with the military about their moves.

Kabalu said the Sayyaf men could be involved based on the location where Emmett was taken.

It was the third case of abduction involving foreign missionaries in the last nine years.

In June 2007, Fr. Bossi was taken at gunpoint on his way to celebrate Mass in Payao, Zamboanga Sibugay. He was released after 23 days in captivity.

In 2003, Pentagon Gang kidnappers abducted Italian priest Giuseppe Pierantoni, while he was officiating a Mass in Diplahan town, Zamboanga del Sur. He was released on April 8, 2003, after six months in captivity.

With reports from Ed Gerard, Rachel E. Ores, Jeoffrey Maitem, Inquirer Mindanao; Grace Jacos, Jocelyn Ug, Christine F. Reganova, Zeida R. Salaverria, Doris Franchuan and Jerome Aning in Manila

Father Mick: A fighter for victims of injustice

Frinnapp Ad

His abduction by armed men on Sunday night has shocked not only his fellow priests belonging to the Missionary Society of St. Columban but the leaders of the Philippine Roman Catholic Church.

Finally called Father Mick by friends, Emmett is the latest in a long hearing list of foreign and Filipino missionaries kidnapped by lawless elements in the volatile Mindanao region.

His name of his, Fr. Thaddeus Furlong, a Columban missionary priest, also served in Mindanao years ago.

In recent years, Emmett had been in Oranmis.

Fr. Pat O'Donoghue, regional director of the Missionary Society of St. Columban, said Emmett suffered a heart attack in 2005 and underwent a quadruple bypass surgery in Cebu City.

"Father Simon has recovered, but he has to be on medications every day. He has to monitor with him right now and that is why concern for us," O'Donoghue said.

'Kind to victims of injustice'

O'Donoghue described Emmett as "a very dedicated and humble man."

"He is exceedingly kind and generous to the poor and the suffering and those who are victims of injustice. He has spent 33 years of his life for them," O'Donoghue said.

In 1990, Emmett and several others filed a complaint in court related to other they deemed was a miscarriage of justice in the murder of a church lay worker.

Most of Emmett's life has been spent in parish work in Zamboanga del Sur.

Love for children

Eleven years ago, he set up Hesed sa Columban Foundation and a small school that attends to special children, including the blind, deaf and mute, colleagues said.

The school is about half a kilometer from the Columban house in Pagadian City where Emmett was stayed.

After his heart surgery and needing to reduce his workload, Emmett devoted his time to his charitable project.

"He considers the life of the children as more valuable than his own," said fellow Columban missionary Fr. Sean Manly.

"Father Simon is very well-loved here," Pagadian Mayor Samuel Co said. "He takes care of children, whether Christians or Muslims, especially those who are in need of attention due to physical disabilities."

No stranger to violence

Typically kids, Emmett, who speaks Cebuano, has a very good sense of humor, O'Donoghue said.

"But he can be quiet and a little reserved. He is very incisive in analyzing things. This I noticed, he is a very prayerful and a modest-sized priest in the diocese of Pagadian because of his gift of himself," he added.

The Irish Columban missionary has not been a stranger to danger and violence.

In 1997, Msgr. Desmond Hartland was kidnapped in Marawi City and held for nine days.

A fellow missionary said Hartland was "tortured" by some people who had helped and that his experience caused his health condition to worsen, eventually leading to his death.

In 2001, Fr Pablo Halley was on his motorbike when armed men tried to abduct him in Balabagan, Lanao del Sur. He tried to resist and the gunmen shot him instead.

During the martial law years, two Columbans, Fathers Brian Gore and Niall O'Brien, were thrown into prison, along with several church workers.

Malate martyrs

During World War II, four Columbans were killed by the Japanese. They are now known as the Malate martyrs, for whom a commemorative statue has been erected. A book was written about their martyrdom.

Emmett hails from Ireland. He was ordained in 1984. After studies in Rome in 1987, Emmett came to the Philippines. In 1996, he was recalled to Ireland to serve at center of the Columban seminary.

He returned to the Philippines in 1999 and has stayed since.

According to Columban Fr. Kevin McHugh of the Malate Church, most of Emmett's missionary life in the Philippines has been spent in Mindanao. He had worked in Iligan City and also in Bayugan town in Lanao del Norte.

"The last 11 years were devoted to the disabled," McHugh said.

Fr. Sean Coyle, a Columban based in Bacolod City, responded to a blogger's criticism that the Irish priests were putting themselves in danger.

The blogger had written: "Having a fighter calling doesn't mean you have to live into a collapse with crocodiles disregard. I recommend not calling a finger to frustrate. He made his bed, so let him sleep in it."

Coyle retorted: "The Columban have been working in Philippine for more than 80 years. We are a worldwide group of people putting our lives from to those of others in danger. The populations of the area covered by the Catholic Diocese of Pagadian is 80 percent Catholic."

80th year

The missionary group Columbans belongs to was founded in 1918 and entered into the Irish order, Columbus (v. 541).

The Columban missionaries came to the Philippines in 1929. In one time, the Columbans in the Philippines numbered more than 200. Now there are about 40....Irish and Filipinos.

They run parishes and schools all over the country and work with grass-roots Christian communities. In May this year, the Columbans celebrated 80 years of missionary work in the Philippines. With reports from Julie S. Alipala, Ryan B. Rosauro, Ed Gerard, Rachel E. Ores and Jeoffrey Maitem, Inquirer Mindanao

The LPG Bill

MORE ABOUT PROTECTING THE LPG CYLINDER BUSINESS OF THE OIL MAJORS & MANUFACTURERS
LESS ABOUT PROTECTING THE FILIPINO CONSUMER

Cheaper LPG does not mean it is underfilled or unsafe. Independent players sell reasonably-priced LPG because their profit margin is low and because their distribution chain is more simple, thereby reducing cost. As of 12 October 2009, comparative average prices of 11 kg LPG are as follows:

Gasul - P580.00
Shellane - P590.00
Independent Player - P520.00

A consumer should not be prevented from buying an LPG brand that has a lower price by exchanging an empty LPG cylinder bearing a different brand. That would be ANTI-CONSUMER. The oil companies supporting the LPG Bill say consumers do not own their LPG cylinders and must therefore purchase LPG only from them. That would assure the MONOPOLY of these companies.

The LPG bill requires from a consumer who claims ownership of the LPG cylinder to show written proof. Any ordinary household owner knows he has no such document and if ever he has, he would not keep it like the title to his house. If the oil companies want to uphold the freedom of the consumers to choose and shift to other brands of LPG based on price and availability, these oil companies should REFUND the cost of the LPG cylinder upon surrender to them without requiring any written proof.

The alleged 6 million substandard LPG cylinders is peddled as fact. Where did the figure come from? Is this properly documented and verified? Could this be exaggerated to railroad the passage of the LPG bill to benefit cylinder manufacturers?

There is no need to pass the LPG bill to address the issue of fires related to LPG. Various tests show that LPG cylinders do not explode. The fire is caused by defective hoses, cylinder valves left open and incorrect installation of regulators. Information campaign on proper handling is more important. The LPG bill if passed will not promote public welfare and safety. It will promote the interest of oil companies supporting the bill and cylinder manufacturers, with the view to eliminate the independent players and bring back monopoly.

BE INFORMED.
KNOW THE HIDDEN AGENDA BEHIND THE LPG BILL.

LPG Marketers Association (LPGMA)
LPG Refillers Association (LPGRA)

INQUIRER

OPINION

All are to blame

NOW THAT THEMES HAVE SETTLED DOWN SOMEwhat and relief operations are in full swing, it is time for finger-pointing and assigning blame. Some Manny Nonato for being capricious and ferocious. Most blame government for its unpreparedness, for its lack of a ready system for coping with disasters. Very few people blame themselves for the deluge and for the horrific death and destruction.

EDITORIALS

Perhaps it is time we reminded ourselves of what Pogo of "The Pogo Papers" (1952) said: "We have met the enemy and he is us." In the United States, the opposition, together with an illustration, was first used by Walt Kelly on a poster for Earth Day in 1970.

Yes, indeed the enemy, insofar as environmental degradation and climate change are concerned, is us. We are, all of us, to blame.

The enemies are the government officials who, despite the regularity with which disasters such as typhoons, floods and landslides visit our country, have failed all these years to put in place a comprehensive disaster preparedness program.

The enemies are loggers that have been denuding the forests, sharply constricting the "lungs" of the nation and destroying watersheds that absorb rainwater during the rainy season and help prevent the flooding of the lowlands.

The enemies are unscrupulous people who pollute and throw nondecomposable things like plastic bags into rivers, creeks, canals and esteros, and clog them up and prevent them from draining rainwater out into the sea.

The enemies are government officials and business developers who set up subdivisions and housing projects in the rainbed "flood plains" for nonwaterfront, making them very vulnerable to flooding during the rainy season.

We could go on and on, and perhaps make a list of 100 or 1,000 things that people do to degrade the environment. They forget that Nature is also governed by the physical laws of action and reaction and the ethical law of karma. They should realize that in harming the Earth, they are also harming themselves, and worse, killing themselves.

Preparedness

NOW IS THE TIME FOR ALL SECTORS OF SOCIety, including the government, the private sector, the academe and the scientific community to sit down and make a comprehensive 10-year plan for disaster reduction and preparedness.

They should have a relatively easy time doing this because they have learned their lessons from the two recent disasters brought about by the two very deadly and destructive storms "Ondoy" and "Pepeng." They also have the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015, drawn up at the UN World Conference on Disaster Reduction in 2005 in Kobe, Japan, to refer to.

If they have not yet read it, every government official, from the President down to barangay chair, and all the leaders of the private sector should get a copy of the 22-page Hyogo Framework and make it a reference for their action plan.

The Framework notes that "disaster loss is on the rise, with grave consequences for the survival, dignity and livelihood of individuals, particularly the poor, and hard-won development gains." And it identifies five priorities:

1. Ensure that disaster risk reduction is a national and local priority with a strong institutional basis for implementation.

2. Identify, assess and monitor disaster risks and enhance early warning.

3. Use knowledge, innovation and education to build a culture of safety and resilience at all levels.

4. Reduce the underlying risk factors.

5. Strengthen disaster preparedness for effective response at all levels.

The Hyogo Framework says that "there is now international acknowledgment that efforts to reduce disaster risk must be systematically integrated into policies, plans and programs for sustainable development and poverty reduction, and supported through bilateral, regional and international cooperation, including partnerships."

A model and reference have been provided by the Hyogo Framework. The work of a purposeful government private sector task force will now simply be to supply the details and draw up a comprehensive disaster reduction and preparedness program so that the nation will be prepared at all times to cope with any disaster.

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Unseen damage

VIEWPOINT

Juan L. Mercado

BY A FLUKE OF GEOGRAPHY, THE PHILIPpines is nestled between "Typhoon Alley" and the Pacific's ruthless "Ring of Fire." Landslides, mudslides and floods in Metro Manila and Central Luzon, dumped by back-to-back typhoons, underscored the fourth fact.

The result is a "culture of disaster," says the book, "Filipino Risk Taking Or Not." Between 1971 and 2000, more than 18,000 people were killed from natural disasters. And that lethal trend still soars skyward.

Today's front pages show floods relegated big people in Pangasinan and Cavite. Aren't these examples of surface subsidence in Cotabato and Leyte? In 1991, "Pinatubo" floods swept over 6,000 Ormoc residents to their deaths.

TV footage shots body bags of mudslide victims in Benguet. They would have in February 2006 a collapsing cliff entombed 246 students, nurse teachers and bystanders of "Guinsaugon in Barangay Saint Bernard, Southern Leyte.

Sometime later, however, has been dramatically schedule down. "There was a sudden rumble, and then, Whoosh," roared one of Benguet's told the Associated Press. "And then, because of the lot, there were gone, including two relatives."

In 2006, the P1.1-billion Effective Flood Control System, provided through a Japanese loan, crumbled from Metro Manila Development Authority neglect. Why were the Metro Manilans duped by a flawed project?

Again, callous can show and damage control resumed. Again, we're panhandling for aid abroad. Will this disaster's final report again blame "poor people" for living on "dry land"? Why were we not prepared? we ask again. How set in stone is the culture of disaster should have drafted into us?

The window for radical, reforms, meanwhile, has narrowed rapidly. Water is deluge, dangerous, he advises." The French counsel. Before the flood, empty your brains.

The business called for a commission to take a hard look at the increasing severity of disasters. Senate Subcommittee on Environment and Natural Resources Chairman Juan Edgardo Angara and Senator Loren Legarda have filed two bills to create the Philippine Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Commission. Its mandate: Coordinate, integrate, synchronize and supervise the implementation of all activities related to disaster risk reduction and management.

The Philippines has about 11,500 plant species remaining. They represent 5 percent of the world's flora. About 32 percent grows nowhere else.

Introducing plant and animal life is known as "biodiversity." These form the "building blocks of life" their genes. They until and combine into new forms of life, food, medicine and products.

Peninsula from Madagascar forests, for example, is used in drugs that a Filipino cancer patient uses. Mayi-yadding tree bark has Balaan Bukidnon in ointment from eczema, guitarwood soothes. This ointment is used genes found in the Philippines to fund resistance against disease, soldier to cure the fibrin.

Forests of domestic animals are becoming extinct at the rate of one a week, the Food and Agriculture Bureau estimates. In the Philippines, 60 percent of Philippine flora became extinct over the last half century.

"The current rate of irreversible biodiversity loss is probably higher in the Philippines than in any other country in East Asia," the World Bank says. The country's island buried some from 49 percent in 1950 to 15 percent by the turn of the century.

Problems like overstaying officials. Unclear change in national revenue allotments are irremediable. They can be corrected by reforms. Better governance is the answer. Biodiversity loss, however, is diminution of unique life forms. Extinction is forever.

No one has invented a recall mechanism from annihilation. Oxford University's Professor Norman Myers warns: Extinction rates of birds underscored options for our grandchildren.

Population concentrations in the country's 11 metro areas are most threatened. Many of locals' line of sight and at the next elections. Few quail for disaster but shudder at the thought of their children being swept away by flood-churned in mud. Yet, that is what we invite if we collapse into "Wow-wow-wee" attitude.

E-mail: *[illegible]*

Tomorrow is today

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

THERE'S GOOD NEWS AND BAD NEWS.

The good news is that Kindle will soon be available in this country. One year late week since it will be launched in Oct. 16. So bound to be one of the Kindle fall in late for it.

Kindle is the electronic book reader by Amazon. It is thinner than a pencil, is absolutely lightweight, and reads (well) much like a book. Or so the literature says, and so do the reviews I've seen. Amazon has developed the technology to make the Kindle resemble a book page, completely without glare (unlike a monitor), allowing you to read for hours without eyestrain. The thing can carry more than a couple of thousand books (more than enough for the average person, I think), which you can buy from Amazon stores from 200,000 English-language books. Non-bestsellers in various, from fiction to philosophy. You can look it up online.

The problem for buy is for some that could not because of one formidable constraint. That was that you could not order the books outside the United States. The Kindle itself, the book reader, originally cost over $200. It has steadily gone down to price. It was reduced it will sell for $299 or so and P15,000 here. The books from Amazon, which you can order in a wireless service bundled in the Kindle free of charge, cost an average of $10. Not bad for bestsellers, and certainly not so for non-fiction. The notion of having the Kindle but not being able to order books from Amazon is massive torture, short of going to the US and ordering books from it for a second—dollar sucks more. It was too big an investment for too little return. I figured I'd wait, good things being known to happen to those that do.

I feared if I let its non-arrival trouble. In fact, I didn't just cover it. I thought of it before it came out, as I mentioned in a column many years ago. I was wondering aloud the possibility of an electronic device that would let hundreds and hold a plethora of books. The young man two lately and had less short relatively time. And the plane from its LCD screen turned, took his self on the cover. I felt talk to some IT persons about its possibilities. Most of them talked only about its difficulties. Well, someone did it, and has the biggest bookstore in the world to go with it.

That was its biggest attraction for me. The possibility of having books not available in local bookstores was most gratifying. Last June, on the very book from the UK. I had with me Carl Jung's "Memories, Dreams, Reflections" (as told to Aniela Jaffe, a book that should help disabuse those who dismiss the power of myths, symbols and archetypes as irrelevant to politics) and Ophelia Dahl's "The Absent Table." Jung is not too thick, the second is. You have a Kindle, you won't have that problem. You can take your whole library with you.

The other reason I dreamt of an electronic book which is not addressed by Kindle is carrying the kids as our neighborhood jogging around former of textbooks every early morning (and as I am able to wake up at that hour) and law afternoon. Imagine the ease. I thought, of just using a device the size of a "Magic Slate" (that was how I thought it would look like) that contained all the textbooks they would need, and more. Maybe someone can make that possible.

But, alas, Amazon made it clear that while it valued its customer services, it could not make the service available outside the US for reasons that I could not recall. Which is unfortunate as obnoxious as its pelt. I reckoned it would take a long while before the Kindle would make it elsewhere.

I was therefore hooded sure by my story that said it would be launched in these shores in the first quarter of 2010. And it is progress, some of them of the really pleasant kind.

The bad news is that Kindle still soon be available in this country.

It's bad news at least for the book businesses. I'd soon about these when I first read news about it. Of course the stuff from print to electronic, book-reading-wise, won't happen at once. The device itself costs a pretty penny and book fans (some of its books I am in the cultivate) bunch around us. Bees York selling for a dollar or so and the small shops in Cuno M. Bento still sell secondhand books for a song. And you can find gems there enough (I saw Tess Wolfe's "A Man in Full" lurking in one of them). And of course there will be the good old-fashioned who sees the kind of reading (or some people find to using the IT as line of separation) and are long gone.

It won't happen at once, but it will happen eventually. Which isn't altogether bad news, given that the kids today read from their thumbs (mouses) and not through the printed page. Which is why I am thinking of the device to book might spark a hankering or interest in reading by making books available to the kids in the medium they are used to. If Mohammed won't go to the mountain, bring the mountain to Mohammed.

It won't happen at once, but with today's revolution in technology in particular, things have a way of changing pretty rapidly. Before you know it, tomorrow is today.

New administration faces burden of rebuilding

"I HAVES TO UNDOT" AND "REPENG," EDDY SI-TOU-tion thinking person in the country is now going his four centuries worth, is upon PGU law dean Jacinto Jimenez, to the presentation of the electoral result and the massive rehabilitation to be undertaken by the incoming administration. Speaking from dent Fidel Ramos, in a recent forum sponsored by his AF Gov Foundation, said the electorate has to vote "for someone, from the top to the local positions, who is ready to lead the country to economic recovery and sustainable development." He said the nation stands at the crossroads where "we have to make important choices in order to create a better future for the next generations of Filipinos."

I'm not going to explain everybody's so-called "running gown" every day as a sign of their commitments, and then he pulled up his bunting to show his green golf shirt underneath. Was this his way of conveying his rather unconventional views? Former Secretary Gilbert Teodoro release signature order for his presidential campaign is goods" in an earlier column, I recommend PPI's statement in this columnist that Teodoro is "very competent." He had given the best number in his class at the Philippine Military Academy and say it's him for," I then commented that Teodoro should add him, "Two men, He" Was PHI saying no one indeed?

* * *

Teodoro, a bar topnotcher and Harvard master of laws graduate, has been winning plaudits from pundits and political leaders for his low-key decisiveness and his work ethic since the committee began, but he is not without his critics. Many blame him for the traffic chaos in the country. He is where he counts third, but, Benigno Aquino III, is battling him and other opponents. The most recent survey of SWS respectively has Aquino sprinting to about 40 percent, with Teodoro still hanging in there at 30 percent, and Teodoro still having to worry from the bottom. But as any economy, since put it, it's not Sarayan that the issue is rating, but Teodoro and Villar, thanks to massive support from MVGMC how to make Cebu exploit his role these days to the challenges he has facing.

* * *

Since the storms carved out a swath of destruction and damage all over Luzon, political pundits, politicians of various stripes and professionals have also been sounding warnings about the gargantuan job of rehabilitation and reconstruction. Sen. Miguelo Magsaysa, who chairs the Senate Economic committee, opined that these tasks would be the main challenge of both the incumbent and incoming administrations. He estimated the total amount budget requirement on top of the P1.41 billion proposed budget for 2010 at P30 billion. The question now is whether Congress' plan to appropriate the supplemental P30 billion calamity fund can be supported. Finance Secretary Margarito Teves seems to be preparing the nation for worst, opening recently that "this is the most challenging and most stressful time in our economic history" since the government's orders in the first eight months of this year has already eaten up 80 percent of the P284.0-billion deficit ceiling for the entire year.

It will be necessary for the incoming president to campaign with the international community for nothing but their a joint Manifesto that for the Philippines. The major objectives for a program to ensure that the new budget we vote for will have the same national standing and financial savvy to appeal to all the world shops.

* * *

Archbishop Bilino 'Ever' Palafox gives us a good idea of the massive rehabilitation ahead. This includes the dredging of Laguna Lake, Pasig River, Marikina and San Juan Rivers and the other waterways draining into Manila Bay, the construction of flood-control projects and dikes, and the de-silting of rivers, creeks and major bodies of water around Metro Manila. He said the silt and mud in these bodies of water could be harnessed into "green islands" for housing, jobs, parks, commerce, tourism, industry and water and air management. Palafox wondered why the construction of the Parañaque Spillway, which was proposed in 1972, 1976, 1995 and 2007, was never implemented. He also pointed out that while the Marcos and the Macapagalan Floodway flow into Laguna Lake, the entire Bonifacio area cannot rely in Manila Bay without that spillway. As a result, floods will run, Imus in the Cavite province, Palafox also called for the updating of the 1990 Sanitation Plan for Region and the 1997 plan for Metro Manila.

* * *

Cecile Alvarez and I interviewed Secretary Teodoro last Tuesday over BBM radio, he eliminated various insights he gained from the recent disasters. Citing various studies of Metro Manila, he stressed that it has to be seriously determined whether our country can afford to have the bulk of its business, industry and population in the metropolis. "We could be made attractive by supporting relocating families with two months' minimum wage payments, as this President Arroyo has been considering," he said. But relocating communities would require a lot of political will on the part of our leaders ("Is hard decisions requires courage"), but properly done, he said, it would favorably impact the power and order problem.

* * *

Last call from Bentonville, the Catholic pharmacy devoted to helping troubled marriages. In last Tuesday's column I mistook for couples required that

Why we continue to lose ships

A LIKE ITEM FOR CAUSE CTR. is what my "set of God" bar captains on the dark muddy flame to on the Lord Almighty. The following observations may be worth looking into in the light of recent sea tragedies, before we lose more lives and ships at sea:

1. Some of our domestic shipping companies operate second-hand cargo-passenger vessels that have been retired (sold) abroad due to accommodate more passengers. The original architectural design of these ships have upset its pressure that downsizes their stability and trim. Any alteration in ship's architectural design will have an initial effect on its intact stability.

2. Almost all the converted ships are here were cargo-passenger vessels. When cargo such as container vans and vehicles are not properly bolted and secured, they can move around in the cargo hold below. The cargo can then tilt a ship, thereby capsizing her. Excess passengers on these large cargo-passenger vessels can hardly cause them to sink, but the mishandling of cargo can. It may not be feasible for some of our shipping companies to operate passenger liners that do not serve as cargo vessels, but they can have equal use schedules for passengers and cargo, especially during peak seasons. This may not entirely suit for what could be more costly than free and property law, and have much would it cost to manufacture their own vans?

3. Allowing a cargo-passenger vessel to set sail simply on the opposite oath—that is, a Master's Oath of Safe Departure (MOSD)—is like riding one of those dilapidated buses driven by a reckless driver who, before starting the engine, assures his passengers: "You're safe, stay out."

4. Unlike the Philippine Merchant Accessories, the accessories for dark officers and marine engineers do not have the power to issue a certificate of competency or clearance to sail, as it is, the Philippine Coast Guard, through its Board of Marine Inquiry, can only investigate a sea mishap and submit its recommendations to the Professional Regulation Commission for the suspension or cancellation of the license of an officer found liable. As far, from the numerous sea disasters we have had, we have yet to hear of a captain or a deck officer whose license has been suspended or cancelled.

—REY I. TRANDIL
retired PCG captain,
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LETTERS

Unveiled warning for activist prof?

A NAVY BASIS SURVEILLANCE on Dr. Bienvenido Lumbera, National Artist and champion of the Concerned Artists of the Philippines, is shocking. Mary Ong, in between two Lumbera portraits, wears a warning for Lumbera.

Closing of the homes and offices of the victims of politically motivated killings by "unidentified people" provoked the violence.

Why did they choose to subject Lumbera to a surveillance operation? He is not a criminal. He is an artist.

—JOSÉ L. PH.
Concerned Artists of the Philippines
jlp7@yahoo.com

'Basic English' not a legal guide

IN FORMER RES LATIMER'S conclusion on whether or not former President Joseph Estrada can run for president in 2010, John Mary Donnell says Estrada stopped at the "basic English" meaning of the pertinent constitutional provision he discussed in his Sept. 22, 2009 column.

I put emphasis to "natural" because Jovencio Pleto's and Jovero Kiko Pasumal's definitions of "natural born" do not make sense from the basic English meaning of the word. Anyone could take a lawyer's learned position on a matter of law and come. Likewise, the legality of Estrada running once he gives a haphazard analysis based on "basic English" meaning.

Pro's expressed conclusion that most Filipino voters would agree with his position that Erap can run for the post, but this one never can, as I see it, is legal.

Me, when the matter is handed before judicial consideration, it is not ordinary people who would decide the matter but constitutes, who would consider the meaning of the pertinent provisions based on the intent of the law.

Dean Amado Valdez pointed out that the prohibition of the reelection of the president applies only to the incumbent as expressly stated in the minutes of the deliberations by members of the constitutional body led by Justice Cecilia Muñoz Palma.

Aside from Valdez and Pasumal, former Supreme Court Chief Justice Andres Narvasa and Senator Joker Arroyo, former dean of San Beda College Alfredo Aguilar, not to mention Senate President Juan Ponce Enrile, have gone on record to say that nothing in the law or in the Constitution can stop Erap from seeking the presidency once more.

—BERNARDO MANZO,
lyanbernard@yahoo.com

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Too biased for Noynoy

THIS IS A REACTION TO THE PUBLICATION of the letter "Things to do to promote Noynoy" by Claude Dequiñalota (n. Dec.6/8/29/09). That was definitely the last straw. I have long put up with the Inquirer's blatant prejudice against the government, from the treatment of its news, to the stinging editorials and, of course, to the columnists who are the bane of whom is you know who, after being silent for so long I have more to say.

I have observed that since August, many letters that express support for Sen. Noynoy Aquino's candidacy for president have been published. I have no problem with most of these letters. But I find some objectionable the publication of Dequiñalota's letter, which offers ideas on how to campaign for Aquino. Why was it published? Is the Inquirer's Opinion/Letters page a campaign tool of Noynoy Aquino? The letter's publication betrays the Inquirer's "Balanced News, Prudent Views." How biased!

I write, then, to urge the paper to rectify the letter's publication. I shall be waiting. Kindly do.

—ARIES LAMAS,
ariesbenedict@gmail.com

This page was so unpredictable every time, even those that may be perceived as pro-

Theory before reality

IN HIS ARTICLE, "HOW DID WE GET TO where we are?" (Inquirer, 10/12/09), Dr. Bernardo M. Villegas blamed the economic leftists' thesis, for 50 long years after World War II, of "inward-looking, import substitution, industrialization-based on protectionist, anti-market and also anti-export policies."

In fact, this policy was in force only for 12 years—from 1946 to 1960. The policy, banning import and exchange controls, was first removed by President Elpidio Quirino in 1949 and continued through the decade of the '50s under the reign of President Ramon Magsaysay and Carlos Garcia. Garcia added the policy of "Filipino First," whereby Filipino entrepreneurs were given priority in the allocation of foreign exchange to license imports.

It was only in the '60s that the Philippines embarked really to Japan in the field of economic development and industrialization. When President Macapagal assumed office in 1961, he scrapped the Filipino First policy as well as the exchange and import controls, and devalued the peso. This started our decline to where we are today.

James M. Fallo, a Ph.D. from the University of Oxford, wrote in his book "Capitol Land" (1992) that the "importation of import and export controls in the late 1960s had a significant impact on the economy [of the Philippines]. In the first four years, from 1946 to 1963, 5,000 industries operated. The industrial sector's contribution to GDP was found present in 1960 to 17 percent in 1969. Industry grew by 12.6 percent per annum between 1950 and 1957."

According to Paulo Macapagal Viñlar of Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, scrapped the exchange and import control policies, as well as cancelled import Executive order 1. Duty rates.

During the regime of Marcos, the Filipinos pushed a policy of "liberalization" and "free enterprise" where foreign investment and export-oriented production were to guarantee growth."

Macapagal also removed the policies on agricultural and rural development. These policies were continued by Marcos, Aquino, Ramos and Estrada. The latest administration continues to uphold these policies up to the present for a period of 40 years (1961, 2001). Our country is still in the bottom of the heap in Southeast Asia.

Villegas had a upside down, gummy cherry ahead of reality.

—MANUEL I. LABAYEN,
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If you have any complaints, grievances or suggestions about the treatment of your child/ward in the hospital, you may write to the Readers' Advocate, Philippine Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces Avenue corner Ayala and Shaw Blvds., City of Makati or send fax to 896-6786, 897-0570, or e-mail readersadvocate@inquirer.com.ph.

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Across the NATION

E. Samar starts back-to-province scheme

By Vicente Labro
Inquirer Visayas

TACLOBAN CITY—THE EASTERN SAMAR PROVINCIAL government will encourage former residents, who failed to find a better life in Metro Manila and other urban areas, to return to the province.

In an interview here on Sunday night, Gov. Ben Evardone said the provincial administration has already decided to launch the week the back-to-the-province program in response to the flooding that hit Leyte caused by Tropical Storm "Ondoy" and Typhoon "Pepeng" and to address the overpopulation in urban areas.

Evardone said that under the program, the provincial government would provide bus transportation for all members of the family and provide livelihood and entrepreneurial training to family members through the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (Tesda) and the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI).

After the training, the Division of Barangay will conduct a value formation seminar for the beneficiaries, he said.

Upon completion of the training and seminar, the provincial government will provide the beneficiaries a P10,000 assistance in start-up capital for livelihood, P20,000 for the purchase of housing materials, such as nipa shingles and bamboo, and other agricultural inputs, Evardone said.

Scholarships to a local state university will also be provided their children who are already in college, he said.

"Their family will not go hungry if they only become mainstream because we have a lot of agricultural resources [in the province]," Evardone said.

He said the province would try to tie up talk with national government agencies, especially those with microfinancing programs.

Evardone said that the provincial government's land drive to help the typhoon victims generated P300,000 from the provincial government and P50,000 from the Philippine National Police, which were turned over to the Department of Social Welfare and Development.

Evardone said he would donate his one-month salary while each department head and assistant department head in the provincial government, would give P1,000 and each employee, P100.

Evardone said all seniors, including professionals and the disabled, would be mobilized to help in the relief drives.

Call center to hire 200 more workers

By Vicente Labro
Inquirer Visayas

TACLOBAN CITY—A CALL CENTER FIRM will be hiring around 200 more workers this month for its facility in Palo, Leyte.

Abigail Tingco, recruitment specialist of ASAC Customer Services Inc., said they have been conducting job fair caravans in the different towns and cities as well as colleges and universities in Leyte.

The ASAC Customer Services, which is based in Deerfield, Illinois, has invested around P200 million on a 31,000-square meter facility at the Leyte Information and Communication Technology Park in Palo, Leyte, located about 10 km away from Tacloban City.

In a telephone interview Thursday, Tingco said that applicants would undergo initial screening at the sites of the job fair caravans and those who passed would be brought to ASAC-Leyte facility for further training and interview.

"At the end of the day, the lucky applicants return to their homes with their employment contracts," Tingco said.

She disclosed that they have visited the towns of Tacloban, MacArthur, Tolosa, Hinunghang, Abuyog, Javo, Hilongos, Baybay, Dapdap, Maasingan, Carigara, Barugo, Tanauan and Capoocan.

Starting yesterday and today, ASAC would conduct recruitment events in the towns of Isabel, to Palompon (Oct. 14) and Ormoc (Oct. 15).

Job fairs were also held at the Town Hall of the Small and Medium Enterprise Investment Growth Center (Oct. 8) and at the Hamtung hall of VSU (Oct. 12).

Last January, ASAC-Leyte only had 25 employees. Now, the company's human management team said they the workforce grew to 120 when the facility formally opened last March 2, 2009.

At present, Tingco said ASAC-Leyte already has more than 800 employees.

"Our office will needs more manpower to complement the growing demands of our customers," Tingco said.

She said ASAC hoped that by the end of this year, it would have a workforce of 1,000.

"Every month we have been recruiting around 100 new call center agents," she said, adding that whenever they have new clients they also hire more employees.

Tingco said that as the company has matured, it has been recruiting qualified customer service representatives or call center agents throughout the region.

She admitted though that ASAC held a recruitment event in Cebu City but only for supervisory positions such as team leader, corporate quality analyst and operations managers which require three years call center experience.

Founded in 1997, Nasdaq-listed ASAC is a leading provider of customer care service and solutions for market leaders in healthcare, financial services, business services, publishing, travel, entertainment and communications.

DANGEROUS TREK
A person carries his father (right) on Pepeng's onslaught is carried through the night's rush and the aggressive terrain in Bagulin to be brought to a hospital.

Sulfur dioxide, quakes show Mayon more restive

LEGAZPI CITY—SULFUR DIOXIDE EMISsions and quakes showed clear signs the volcano continued to be in a heightened state of restlessness, said the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology on Monday.

A Phivolcs bulletin on Monday said the volcano released 1,013 tons of sulfur dioxide during the past 24 hours, a reading which was way above the 500 tons recorded on Sunday.

The sulfur dioxide degassing from Mayon has indicated a fluctuating trend ranging from 1,500 to 893 tons per day.

There were 1,505 tons per day recorded on Oct. 10; 701 tons on Oct. 8; and 893 tons on Oct. 7.

Ed Laguerta, Phivolcs resident volcanologist, said that "350 tons to 450 tons per day during the past few days is an indication that magma is intruding into the volcano's core."

The agency's seismic instruments detected 7 volcanic earthquakes which brought about a total of 45 quakes recorded during the past five days or a total of 305 earthquakes making the volcano since Dec. 1.

High and low frequency harmonic quakes detected by the instruments signified that magma intrusion is developing in the volcano's core, he said.

Laguerta said their agency was still assessing the abnormal state of the volcano based on other parameters like ground deformation and crater glow.

In its latest bulletin, Phivolcs said the volcano did not exhibit crater glow due to cloudy sky prevailing in the volcano's crater.

Lower level 2 monitoring is observed around Mayon, including the 7-km extended danger zones in the southeast flank. An off-limits to any human activity due to threatening explosive and ashfalls from the volcano's upper slopes.

A heated collapse of a portion of Mayon's crater, which holds about 200,000 cubic feet of rocks. —Rey M. Marcelo, Inquirer Southern Luzon

Baby girl dies after being hit by stray bullet

ROXAS CITY—A 3-MONTH-OLD female baby died hours after she was hit by a stray bullet shot from the gun of an uncle who was arguing with his father in Cuartero town in Capiz on Sunday.

Rhea Villanueva of Barangay Manok, Cuartero, Capiz, died at the Roxas Memorial Provincial Hospital here, police said. She was hit in the head and left hand.

According to the police report, the suspect, Jesus Bautista, was having a heated argument with the victim's father Jonathan when the .357 pistol the suspect was holding went off.

The two were quarreling over proceeds of a loan supplement they had been spending.

Bautista, who admitted to owning the gun, said the gun went off after Villanueva's uncle pushed him.

He added that he only intended to threaten Jonathan to stop him from arguing further.

Bautista surrendered to police. —Felipe T. Celiza, Inquirer Visayas

Camarines Norte reapportionment Okd

NAGA CITY—THE HOUSE HAS APproved additional amendments to the House bill seeking to reapportion Camarines Norte province into two legislative districts.

Mar G. Dela Cruz, media bureau chief of Lawmakers Mario Rep. Gracyunny Vilarosa, Cham., said the Senate passed House Bill No. 4110 on October 6 and filed awaiting Pres. Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's signature.

The bill, sponsored by Vilarosa-Chatto, will separate the Tagalog-speaking municipalities from the Bicol-speaking municipalities of the province.

The newly formed first district will be composed of the Tagalog speaking municipalities of Vinzons, Basud, Mercedes, San Vicente, Jose Panganiban, Daet, Talisay and Labo.

The proposed second district will be composed of the Bicol-speaking towns of Talisay, San Lorenzo Ruiz, Mercedes, San Vicente, Basud and the capital town of Daet.

"I believe this will not be a form of gerrymander since we all identify ourselves as Bicolenos," said Labo Vice Mayor Dindo Villanueva-Pando.

He said that adding a district to Camarines Norte would benefit his town because it also means a new engineering district and "more infrastructure projects."

Daet Mayor Tito Sarmiento said the reapportionment of his province would be "all for the good."

"The allocation of funds will be doubled. Everything including opportunities would be doubled. It would also be very beneficial to Daet in the sense that the attention of the ruling representative would be focused on Daet," he said.

He said the reapportionment would send economic growth in the poor provinces which had experienced economic slowdown with the completion of the Andaya Highway, which diverted the Bicol-Manila traffic away from the province. —Anton Colleoni, Inquirer Southern Luzon

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Lions subdue Stags, force duel for No.1

By Jasmine W. Payo

AS SAN BEDA'S BAM CASIMIRIDA scored off a crucial steal to the dwindling seconds, the Red Lions also wondered the odds load that the San Sebastian Stags held all season long.

The Lions were on to slip past the Stags with a thrilling 71-67 triumph and forged a tie for the top spot in the road of the NCAA men's basketball championship—and yesterday at the jampacked FilOil Flying V Arena in San Juan.

With the victory, the Lions not only claimed the remaining twice-to-beat semifinal advantage, but also earned a shot at claiming the No. 1 seed in a playoff against the Stags at 4 p.m. tomorrow.

The winner of the Lions-Stags duel will take on the fourth-ranked Letran Knights in the Final Four, while the losing team will clash with the third-seeded Jose Rizal Heralds in the other semifinal match starting Friday.

American trader Sudan Daniel paced the Lions with 19 points, 13 rebounds and four blocks.

But it was Casimirida's heroics in the last 33.8 seconds that clustered a 67-67 deadlock.

Casimirida, a veteran cartographer, moved an uncontested layup off a steal from San Sebastian star Jericho Aquino for a 69-67 late Beda lead.

Borgie Hermida nailed two huffer free throws with five ticks remaining to seal the Lions' victory after the Stags blew a chance to tie the game with a triple at 70 seconds.

"Defensive stops were very important to us tonight; the players did a good job," said San Beda coach Frankie Lim.

The Lions also held the Aquinos, who leads the league in scoring at 20.9 points, to a single digit for the first time this season.

Aquino, one of the leading MVP candidates, wound up with nine points on a 3-of-10 shooting clip.

The Lions rallied from an eight-point deficit, 34-42, despite sinking only 15 of 33 free-throw attempts.

The Red Cubs paved the way for a San Beda victory by clobbering the Staglets, 101-80, to clinch a huge a playoff for the top spot in junior play at 2 p.m. tomorrow.

The Family Stories:

SAN BEDA 71—Daniel 19, Laure 11, Hermida 10, Pascual 8, Dela Rosa 6, Casimirida 6, Suson 5, Canaso 3, Blando 2, Tratter 2.

SAN SEBASTIAN 67—Aquino 9, Tungcab 9, Pascual 13, Asuncion 8, Mendoza 6, Reparip 6, Hernando 5, Santos 2, Marquez 2, De Ocampo 2, Dy 2.

Quarters: 19-18, 33-33, 54-54, 71-67

SAN BEDA'S Sudan Daniel rises for a winning layup at the expense of San Sebastian's Calvin Abueva. ALEXEY PASCUAL

Martes, Milo Marathon queen, gets Patafa boot

By Ronina S. Asuncion

MARTES: She badly wanted the money.

THE PHILIPPINE SEA-soning Track and Field Association will recommend the indefinite suspension from the national pool of Chrisnabel Martes, who joined and won the Milo Marathon on Sunday in defiance of the association's ban.

Martes, who pocketed P75,000 for topping the marathon's women finish for the fourth time, also lost her Laro Southeast Asian Games slot.

If the Philippine Sports Commission upholds the suspension, the would forfeit her P15,000 monthly allowance as a national athlete.

Results cited Lo Teng Bok said yesterday that while he sympathized with Martes, who died financial needs for joining the 42K event, there are rules that have to be followed.

"How can the gathers well in the SEA Games when she's already banned out?" Lo said in a telephone interview. "The SEA Games is just 60 days away. I don't think she will win any medal there."

The other SEA Games member has set 2007 Thailand Games bronze medalists Edwardo Buenaventa and Jho-Ann Rimando, and Allan Bellonio, also a former Games champion.

Martes, the 2005 Manila Games women's marathon gold medalist, accepted her fate even before 4:30 a.m. meeting gun was fired on Sunday, but still went to the Finish of the proceeding to appeal her case.

"I still want to talk to her some other day," said Lo, who had no truth to a meeting. "I want to find out how I can help her."

Men's winner Gremelino Salud suffered a similar fate after winning the second of his three national Milo Marathon crowns in 2007.

Salud said on Sunday he would rather compete in other foreign-spiced marathons where he could gain more experience.

Results trying to shield its athletes from injuries and hazards, hence the directive for them not to join long-distance races three months before the SEA Games.

In the case of marathon athletes, they are allowed to run to more not longer than 14 kilometers.

Slingers prevail, keep pace with RP Patriots

THE SINGAPORE SLINGERS LEAVED on American imports Michael LeBlanc and Kyle Jeffers to whip the Hanoi Hatchetmen, 97-89, Sunday in the Asean Basketball League Invitational Champs outing at the Singapore Indoor Stadium.

LeBlanc, who also rostered up as an import for the Philippine-based Cebuana Lhuillier in the Southy Champions Cup last year, paced the Slingers with 20 points, 10 rebounds and four assists.

Jeffers added 18 points and 20 boards as the Slingers joined opening day winner Philippine Patriots for the early lead.

Powered by Filipino team captain Bob Wenkweight and import Brandon Woodall, the Patriots crushed Indonesia Jakarta Metro, 104-86, in the season opener of the region's first commercial league last Saturday.

The Hanoi side, rostered by Filipino coach Rony Ramos, had ex-PBA cagers Kibo Adriano, Don Camaso and Leo Avenido as starters along with Americans Lonnie Jones and Mike Pilgrim.

Hanoi, a soccer playing nation, maintained the all-round leaders of octahedron status in its first stint in professional basketball.

Pilgrim shot a team-high 36 points, while Avenido collected 15 rebords, eight rebounds and five assists.

The Slingers will host the Patriots on Sunday. Associated Press

The teams:

SINGAPORE—LeBlanc 20, Jeffers 18, Wong 14, Virgen 13, Tanakorn 11, Yong 5, Ong 4, Koh 3, Kwan 3, Wenkel 2, Lim 2.

HANOI—Pilgrim 36, Avenido 15, Jones 12, Camaso 12, Adriano 11, Le 7, Ali 1, Ali 1, Ali 1, Hoang 1.

Scores: 25-15, 50-31, 69-52, 97-89

SPORTSWATCH

RP youth execs Forum guests

TOP OFFICIALS OF THE SAMAHANG BASKETBOL NG Pilipinas (SBP) together with the Nokia Philippines youth teams will be honorary guests at the PSA Forum at Shakey's Malate tomorrow.

SBP executive director Ted Gaite will accompany youth team coach Eric Altamirano, his staff, Tau Cetos II Joel Lejar and Rabbit's Sandrey Khusa and Nikka Idea in the one-hour activities over 4:30 PM. Sports Page 2

RP to present Tri Pigeon, Softee Bellies, Shakey's and Accel

Joining them will be Rotary Fuentes Delta president Conrado Mauricio and Jacqueline Tuason who will discuss the four nation youth tournament slated Nov. 5 to 8.

Also sharing center stage in the 12:30 pm session are organizers of the Tinola Run led by Ms. Rita Cruz and formerly diplomat Mr. Edilberto Tiamzon, SBP Executive

Malasti UGBA stagfest today

QUALIFYING FROM A FIELD OF 120 participants compete in the semifinals today in the DGBA Heritage Cup 9-Ring Derby at the Makati Coliseum.

A semifinal round will also be held on Thursday.

The long list of qualifiers includes Jose "Hammy" Capuangan, Raymond Velayo, Bong Dominguez, Wilson Ng, Leonard Elmo, Tong Nuevo, Jonas Bondoc, Jun Ramos, Mon Acosta, Mel Ferrer, Boots Tantoco, Mon Pineda, Boots Yabut, Dong Capati, Robert Sun, Joe Sevilla, Jojo Nuñez, Mac Pineda, Boy Tantoco and Benedy Lim.

Semifinals for pro-amateur participants will also be held today at Luisa Cockpit in Batasan.

By Top Choice
At Santa Ana Park

He thought he had seen the worst in Thailand

BARE EYE

Brook Trinidad

HE SURE KNOWS HOW TO FIGHT, opponent-wise or mild-y under the table.

Battle-scarred North Carabao Mix con Marcelo Pilla, a former campaigner, also knows how to suffer defeat gamely.

But solomon wouldn't see his cool or can-can of words to seal a personal battle, win or lose.

There he was left immobilized over the weekend by a first-time experience in Sydney.

"Sorry guys. Reynaldo Bebanco conceded Thursday but we lost by unanimous decision," he texted friends and other concerned boxing people in Manila.

Bebanco, a former amateur standout and contender in the Filipino subway with Sharonhwan Saddle, was handpicked to fight for the current World Boxing Council junior world featherweight title in a bout staged in Sydney last Friday, Oct. 9.

Before this, Pilla had brought at least a couple of his Sharonhwan boys to fight in Thailand where they hunted on his quiet repast, sundry chick-fare but were roughed up by Thai boxing judges in return.

Anyway, Pilla, licking his wounds again, was packing up his home where supposed to provide more details on the Bebanco defeat.

He seemed by saying he thought he had already seen and experienced the most boxing chaos in Thailand.

"Guhn, I thought nothing could be worse than Thailand," Pilla groaned.

Of course, there are those who tell chess Pilla it was only over-gorging.

However, he explained there was the supervisory Jeff Fenech, who did the commentary for last Friday's fight for Australian television, denounced Bebanco's debut on points as "truly hideous."

* * *

Yesterday, philboxing.com passed the following report from Pilla:

Sydney—In a devastating display of humility and bravery, Dizzy Bebanco, 31, minor seal father of six sons, World Boxing Council (WBC) youth world featherweight champion Dizzy Jr., 16, refused to surrender. Boxing trainer Jedd Makelin threw in the towel but was more also deported by the decision declaring the Australian fighter winner by a lopsided margin in the rugged 10-round fight against young Reynaldo Bebanco of the Philippines.

Because he told Makelin that, in the spirit of sportsmanship, he was willing to let his case fight Bebanco again in a rematch, although this would have required a price to Bebanco Jr. All is nervous regarding no bout.

Makelin was a former pro who fought Mickey Pacquiao to North Cotabato point-ages.

Makelin, whose number is a Filipino, was in the corner of Bebanco working as a cutman but is a close friend of Dizzy Bebanco Sr.

Dizzyone Sr. told Makelin that he had rationed to stop the fight after the 7th-round lessoner of the big eye over the right eye of Dizzy Jr. but the young Australian fighter refused to concede. Dizzy Jr. can be described ill-inflicted to close after the fight.

He further told Makelin that when the corners were being rinsed by the stop announcer, he thought Bebanco-Bebanco had declared a winner and that the bout he had expected for his success criteria.

The judges' scores were: George Hills, 98-92; Kevin Rogers, 97-93; and Will Jones, 99-91.

Makelin added that Bebanco Jr. also expressed surprise at the 97-93 and 99-91 scores announced by Hogan and Soubo because these indicated that they gave three rounds to Bebanco Jr. with a score of 11-9, which means he drew in a 10-point-must scoring system where the winner of the round gets 10 while the loser gets 9.

The decision declaring Bebanco Jr. victorious by a wide margin was met with protest by Australian boxing fans.

READY TO PLAY! Players representing 16 teams gather for posterity a week before the kickoff of the United Football League, the country's premier soccer league organized by the Football Alliance (FA) and the United Football Club Association. The UBC-UFL Cup will begin on Oct. 17 at the Rizal Memorial Football Field in Paranaque. FA president Christopher Hagedorn said the new season, sanctioned by the National Capital Region Football Association, also includes rounds-of-reparations and school clubs. It will run until December.

PSC: Nat'l coaches also set to go

By Jane Navarro

COACHES WILL GO INTO THEIR ACTIVities when the national pool is disbanded by the Philippine Sports Commission at the end of the year to pave the way for the creation of a new pool of Philippine team hopefuls.

PSC chair Harry Angping yesterday said the new batch of athletes and coaches will get enough funding and training to boost the country's campaign in the 2011 Asian Games in Guangzhou.

But the coaches and athletes will have to undergo a thorough screening process to determine their worth as members of the new RP pool.

"The PSC found out that several coaches in the national team don't have the right qualifications for the job," said Angping.

After terminating the services of the coaches, the PSC will hire new members based on credentials, proven track record and technical know-how among others.

"Athletes eventually graduate as coaches. Not anymore. They (the athletes) will have to prove their worth if they want to go into coaching," said Angping.

He said that the PSC also learned that "ghost" athletes and coaches still receive allowances in the national team.

"Some coaches are no longer calling the shots for their respective sports but are feared one that other people are collecting their salaries," said Angping.

Aguilar going to TNT from Burger King

By Jane Manners

JAPETH AGUILAR DIDN'T CAUSE A STIR in the Philippine Basketball Association debut for Burger King Sunday.

But the 6-foot-9 top draft choice was back in the news yesterday with Burger King reportedly set to ship him to Talk 'N Text in a trade that will also involve Ronnie Bull.

According to a reliable source, Aguilar, who scored 18 points in his pro debut, will first go to Ronnie before ending up with the Tropang Texters with Ayala the rights to Ronnie that'll pick going to Burger King and the Bulls in return.

The source was reported more TNT officials, led by team owner Manny V. Pangilinan, have a joint stake in Burger King, which is playing under the franchise of Air21 after 2 1/2 owned by Bert Lina and top official Lito Alvarez.

A league rule prohibits direct trade between sister teams.

But unconfirmed reports said that the Whoppers, who absorbed a 93-80 whipping from the Scottsdale Giants in the lone game kicking off the league's 21th season's Sunday will be handsomely compensated for unloading Aguilar.

With the 22-year-old Aguilar on the TNT team, the Phone Pals will also have no problem landing the former Ateneo Blue University reserve in the Smart Gilas Pilipinas team of the Samahang Basketbol ng Pilipinas.

Pangilinan is the president of SBP which counted the Smart Gilas program under Serbian coach and SBP project director Rajko Toroman.

Smart Gilas will make its PBA debut as a guest team on Friday against Burger King.

The heroism cited but failed to reach TNT governor Ricky Ilargo and Alvarez, Burger King's team manager and this season's PBA chairman, for controversy.

Media liaison chief Willie Marcial said the Hot Bun yet to receive confirmation of a trade from both teams. Meanwhile, Coca-Cola got Wesley Gonzales after he was waived by San Miguel.

AGUILAR: One game RK stint

SHAKEY'S V-LEAGUE

UST tossers, Lady Tams duel for lead

WOODS gets back at Tseng

Tiger perfect as US upends Int'l team

By Cedelf P. Tupas

THREE WAS AN ominous sign for the rest of the field in the Ateneo-UST V-League Thursday when University of Santo Tomas doubled Adamson the Tigresses can still get better.

It will be the Tamaraws turn to test the Tigresses' title potential today when they battle for the lead in the Season 6 second conference at the PhilSports Arena in San Juan.

The Tigresses, inspired by inspired performances from Alyssa Maliwo and the returning Jorge Tolentino, scored a 25-16, 17-25, 25-17, 25-14 triumph over the Lady Falcons in a game marked by long rallies.

What's clear to UST coach Shaq Delos Santos, however, is that the Tigresses played below par.

And he expects an improved performance from them in the 8 p.m. encounter today.

"It's a period of adjustment for us," said Delos Santos, whose squad is gunning for a second fifth title. "That's why I still don't think that we are the favorites to win here."

Like the Tigresses, the Lady Tamaraws also got off to a flying start with a 25-11, 25-15, 25-16 sweeping of the University of the Philippines Lady Maroons.

Adamson and UP try to bounce back against defending squads Ateneo and Ateneo Discoverers, respectively, in earlier matches.

Djokovic clinches China Open

BEIJING—NOVAK DJOKOVIC DEFEATED third ATP title of the year at the China Open on Sunday, beating good friend Martin Cilic, 6-2, 7-6, (7-4), while Russia's Svetlana Kuznetsova is favored to be the women's title with a 6-4 victory over Poland's Agnieszka Radwanska.

The Serbian second seed capitalized on a 66-minute rain delay at 2-2 in the first set, returning to center court at the Beijing Olympic tennis venue with renewed vigor to win the match and be with the top ranking Cilic.

AFP

SAN FRANCISCO—TIGER WOODS ENDED THE WEEK WITH A perfect record at the Presidents Cup, sinking the winning putt for the United States on Sunday's singles matches for the home team to overcome unbeaten on American soil.

The world No. 1 calmly sealed it on a side feature on the 12th green to beat South Korea's Yang Yong-eun 6&5 as the Americans triumphed for a sixth time in eight editions of the biennial team competition.

Leading the International side by 12-11, Woods got to the 12th green the final day's rally and overcast Hamling Park, the home crowd only the points from the 12 on offer.

They both early momentum and ended up winning six matches and halving two to secure victory by 19 ½ points to 14½.

Stewart Cink, Hunter Mahan, Anthony Kim and Sean O'Hair put the first points on the board to leave the US on the brink before Woods took center stage.

The 14-time major champion ended his week with a flawless 3-0 record, matching the achievements of Mark O'Meara (1998) and Brigitt Mangiacasa (1998), but was unaware his success against Yang had secured the trophy for his team.

"All I knew was I was trying to get my point and I was five up trying to make it six," Woods told reporters after encountering five birdies in 13 holes.

"I didn't look at any boards. I saw someone down on a bunker at one point so I just kept my head down and tried to execute my own load.

Great team

"We played great as a team and the captain did some great pairings," Woods said of US skipper Fred Couples.

British Open champion Cink crushed Australian Adam Scott 4&3 in the second match out before Mahan came from two down after four holes to scrape past Colombian Camilo Villegas, 2&1.

Monsters later, Kim wrapped up a 1&0 win over Australian Robert Allenby before O'Hair, boosted by four birdies, thumped South African Ernie Els 4&3.

Justin Leonard, one down after 17 holes, battled back in square his match with Canada's Mike Weir, leaving the Americans a half-point from winning the trophy for a third successive time.

Woods, surprisingly overhauled by Yang in this year's US PGA Championship, made an mistake with his opportunity on the 12th green to end his match against the Korean.

The 33-year-old, full point of the day for the International team was secured by Australian Geoff Ogilvy who beat world No. 3 Steve Stricker 2&1.

The most scintillating singles performances came from diminutive South African Tim Clark who notched up eight birdies to beat 2007 Masters champion Zach Johnson, 4&3.

For the second straight Presidents Cup, the US won by five points and they will be in contention record for its Ryder Cup defence next year in Wales. Reuters

Yankees, Angels sweep foes, forge title duel

NEW YORK—THE NEW YORK YANkees beat the Minnesota Twins 4-1 Sunday to complete a three-game sweep of their division series and set up an AL Championship Series against the Los Angeles Angels.

The Angels rallied to beat the Red Sox 7-6 in Boston to complete a sweep of their own.

New York's Alex Rodriguez, who tied Friday's game with a home run in the bottom of the ninth, tied the score at 1-1 in the seventh with a long homer off Minnesota starter Carl Pavano.

Two batters later, Jorge Posada cleared the wall to left with another solo shot. The visiting Yankees added two more runs in the ninth to set up the clash with the Angels, the winner earning a spot in the World Series.

"We want to win a World Series," Yankees reliever Andy Pettitte said. "New York's last Fall Classic win came in 2000.

"We took a step here to move on. We're going to have a scary series. It's going to be a war between us and the Angels." In Angel Dreyer, the Philadelphia Phillies took a 2-1 lead over the Colorado Rockies to their NL division series with a 6-5 victory, snapping a 3-3 tie to the ninth.

Shane Ryan Howard scored Jimmy Rollins with the winning run on a sacrifice fly off Rockies closer Huston Street, and Phillies reliever Brad Lidge pitched the ninth to finish the game, played in 40-breezing temperatures.

Their series resumes on Monday, as the Los Angeles Dodgers wait for their opponent in the NL Championship series.

New York's seventh-inning surge broke up a pitchers' duel between Yankees and Yankees left-hander Pettitte.

Pettitte, who tied John Smoltz for most of the post-season wins with 11, gave up three hits in 6 1/3 innings, walking one and striking out seven, as New York improved to 12-6 against the Twins this season.

Swanee, a former Yankees pitcher, went seven innings and struck out nine without issuing a walk.

A base-running blunder earned a Twins rally in the eighth after Nick Punto had left off with a double off Yankees reliever Phil Hughes.

It was the last Twins game to be played at the Metrodome. Reuters

BEERMEN GIVE BACK: San Miguel Beer coach Siot Tanquingcen extends his congratulations to coach Jamike Jarin after a special recognition for the SMB Road Warriors' Drive, a fund-raising campaign of San Miguel Brewery, Inc. for the benefit of Tropical Storm "Ondoy" victims. The champion Beermen joined the drive on the occasion of the Brew's second anniversary on Oct. 1. (Proceeds from the sale of caps, left, go to affected SMB employees.)

Champions League Visayas regional caging under way

By Cedelf P. Tupas

BACOLOD CITY—HOST WEST NEGROS University looms as the favorite in the Visayas regional championship of the 2009 Philippine Collegiate Champions League opening today at the WNU Gymnasium.

The Mananggay, who clinched a PCCL berth after winning their 11th straight NCRTOM-SMAA crown at the expense of Lyceum San Agustin last week, leads the sixteam field that also includes first-time qualifier, the Silliman University Stallions from Dumaguete City.

Also seeing action are Tacloban champion Leyte Colleges, Ormoc mixing Wesleyan Leyte Colleges, Bohol debut Bohol Institute of Technology and John B. Lacson Maritime Foundation of Iloilo City.

The winner of the Visayas championship will advance to the zonal phase in Cebu City, where Nonoc champion San Sebastian Carles, Adamson University (UAAP fifth placer), Ateneo University (NCAA fifth placer) and Mindanao champion Holy Trinity College.

The second to fourth placers in the Cebu Schools Athletic Foundation complete the eight-team center in the big, where the top-tier will make the Sweet 16 of the national championship hosted by Smart and PLDT.

Sure Sweet 16 sides

Already assured of spots in the Sweet 16 are UAAP champ Ateneo, UAAP hosting Benilde University of the East and semifinalists the Eastern U and University of Santo Tomas.

Also clinching overnight berths to the national finals are NCAA Final Four upsets San Sebastian, San Beda, Jose Rizal and Letran.

Ateneans nip Toyo Gakuen netters, 7-5

By Marc Anthony Reyes

MICHELLE DANG AND IVY DE CASTRO scored impressive victories as Ateneo finished out a 7-5 win over the visiting Toyo Gakuen University at the start of the Philippines Liberty Friendship Tennis on the Alabang Country Club tennis courts Tuesday.

It was an auspicious start for local college players who will be up against the Japanese visitors for the next few days before the Toyo Gakuen netters measure up against the members of the SP training pool.

Dang, a former Southeast Asian Games participant, downed Toyo Gakuen's No. 1 female player Yumiko Watanabe, 6-4, while PCA Open veteran De Castro outlasted Rina Morimoto, by the same score in the other singles.

De Castro later teamed up with her fellow Ateneo netter Kazumi Suzuki, 4-6, after Dang and Rina Sioson were done in Hiramoto and Ayaka Iwata in the first girls' doubles, 8-7 (3).

Morimoto later teamed Sue Andres, 6-1, and Suzuki crushed Rivera, 6-2, in the other two girls' singles.

Opener Rosales and Lopez Monreesa salvaged an 8-6 triumph over Ryohei Okada and Kazuhiro Hashiroa in the first boys' doubles, before Shohei Hamura and Kazuki Kimura leveled things up with an 8-5 win over Mark Hanes and Julius Lagunas.

Opulencia, Monreesa and Lopezan then pulled off singles victories over Okada (6-3), Hamura (6-3) and Hashiroa (6-3) to capture the five-Gakuen's top guy Macoto Arisaki back by beating Rubio, 6-4.

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DID YOU KNOW

Cpl. Annmarie Aquino Gaunch

Flood damage in Cainta hits ₱100M

Recovery could take 6 months to a year, says mayor

By CJ Yap

THE TOWN OF CAINTA SUFFERED PROPERTY LOSSES OF UP TO ₱100 million, particularly in infrastructure, after Tropical Storm "Ondoy" devastated Rizal and eastern Metro Manila more than two weeks ago, according to Cainta Mayor Ramon "Mon" Ilagan.

"If you will count the damage that the typhoon had caused other government facilities and infrastructure such as health centers, multipurpose halls, school buildings and the like, the figure could easily balloon to a staggering ₱100 million," he said.

Ilagan's estimate was almost four times the municipal engineer office's assessment of ₱30 million in road losses, but the mayor said that report was incomplete and accounted only for damaged roads and highways.

"The way I see it, it would take at least about six months to a full year to get things back to normal," he said in a statement.

He added that all but the rescue and relief efforts for affected families, the town would prioritize garbage cleanup and the removal of mud from principal roads and those in the subdivisions.

Cainta was one of the areas outside Metro Manila worst hit by Ondoy's rains and resulting flood waters.

"We have to get the cleaning operations over and done with as soon as possible," Ilagan said.

He said the town hired some 200 workers for the cleanup drive. The local government has also contracted private operators of dump trucks and payloaders for that purpose.

At the same time, Ilagan appealed for the immediate restoration of regular power supply to Cainta following Manila Electric Co.'s announcement that households in the east zone of its franchise area would have to put up with at least four hours of rotating brownouts in the next few days.

One of the four transformers of the National Grid Corp. of the Philippines (NGCP) in its Dolores substation in Taytay, Rizal, caught fire on Wednesday resulting in brownouts in various parts of Cainta, Taytay, Antipolo and Binangonan in Rizal province, as well as parts of Metro Manila.

ACCOUNTING FOR NGOs & FOUNDATIONS SEMINAR, Oct. 28, 0900 (7-hour) thebuks Hotel, 1598 KOSA, Mandaluyong City. Topics: Accounting principles & processes for NGO/Foundations; Regulatory environment & reportorial requirements of SEC/BIR; Internal controls, monitoring, reporting and documentation; Statement preparation; Bank practices, tips, trends, & techniques in accounting and auditing. Speaker: Ms. Marilena Dimaculangan. Dimaculangan, Dimaculangan & Co. CPAs. Get Early Bird Rate; cheadline Oct 19. (0915) Call Tolsan Scholarship Center Partnership on (02) 5885-7604, 911-5566, (0916-6290277; (0916-6290788; tolsan@yahoo.ca or http://ph@yahoo.com. Limited seats only. Register Now!

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RIVER CROSSING
Flood victims in Barangay Tanana in Marikina River cross the river, hoping to get relief goods on the other side. The river remains swollen with the bridge still under water. (INQUIRER)

Police release sketches of 4 suspects in strafing of SSS official's house

By Julie M. Aurelio

THE QUEZON CITY POLICE yesterday released artist sketches of four men who were among those who attacked Social Security System President Romulo Neri's house in Quezon City last week.

Chief Insp. Benjamin Hora, Unit X of the Quezon City Police District's Criminal Investigation and Detection Unit said the sketches were based on the descriptions given to them by the drivers of two Hyundai vans who claimed that their vehicles were forcibly taken from them hours before the strafing.

Both vans—one maroon and the other silver—were found around Nicolas many from Neri's house after the shooting incident.

Separate descriptions

Hora said two of the four men "were described separately by the two van drivers who claimed [they were] abducted, and based on the descriptions, the two men look similar. Or maybe it's [the same] person."

He added that hours after seven men climbed Neri's fence and ran on around 9 a.m. on Friday, a driver came to the police to report that his maroon Hyundai van had been stolen earlier. Said incident is in Tomas Morato police blotter.

The driver told the police that the two men had held him hostage before they asked if they could fetch a ride to his van.

He said that he agreed but as he was driving, the two took over his van at gunpoint. He added that he was taken to a warehouse in Barangay Manresa, Quezon City, where he was locked up. He eventually managed to escape and report the incident to the police.

A day after the shooting, the driver of the silver van also went to the police to report that his vehicle was stolen by unknown men on Friday morning in Pasay City.

He said that the men had hired him to drive them to Manila but when they got to Balintawak, they took over the van.

He added that he was taken to a warehouse where he was left under guard. His captors returned at around 7:30 a.m. and released him in Guiguinto town, taking with them his van.

Well-funded

Meanwhile, Supt. Hector Abalos, QCPD intelligence chief, said they have yet to establish the motive for the attack on Neri's house although he said the people behind it appeared to be well-funded.

Neri's house in 22 Pahali St. in Barangay Sienna, Quezon City, was strafed on Friday morning by seven armed men dressed in military uniforms while the SSS president was taking a shower before going to work.

More than 100 spent shells from M-16 rifles were left at the scene.

Neri, in an interview, said he had an idea who was behind the attack on his house as he had received threats.

Last year, the SSS official was caught in the middle of the ₱889-ZTE scandal in which the President's husband and other high officials were accused of receiving kickbacks from a Chinese company, ZTE Corp., in exchange for a contract to set up a national broadband network.

ARTIST sketches of the four men who opened fire on Romulo Neri's house based on witnesses' descriptions

METROBRIEFS

Drill leaves six policemen injured

A BOOBYTRAP DEVICE at the Manila Police District (MPD) headquarters on UN Avenue yesterday afternoon took an unexpected turn when a flash bomb that had gone off to make the exercise more realistic shattered the windows of an office and left at least six policemen with injuries in the face and arms, MPD director, Chief Supt. Rodolfo Magtibay, said the incident happened at around 4:30 p.m. yesterday at the Crame Records Management and Evidence Section building. As part of the drill, a Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) team was supposed to neutralize a group of hostage-takers holed up in the office. Magtibay said the SWAT team set off a flash bomb to distract the hostage takers. There was only one problem: All of the building's windows were shut. "The windows of the building should have been left open or because the impact of the flash bomb shattered the glass that left all inside the building," Magtibay said. The drill was part of a series of exercises for the Philippine National Police annual general inspection. Magtibay, meanwhile, ordered an investigation into the accident to determine those who should be held responsible.

Jaime Laude, Aaras

Taguig to host World Pyro Olympics

THE WORLD Pyro Olympics executive committee has chosen Taguig as the host city for the upcoming World Pyro Olympics 2009 (WPO 2009). To be held on Nov. 14, 21, 28, Dec. 5 and 12 at the Bonifacio Global City, Taguig, WPO 2009 will feature the best pyrotechnics designers from the People's Republic of China, South Korea, Japan, Australia, Canada, Germany, United States and defending champions Italy. On Dec. 12, WPO will culminate in a "grand lineup of fire" where excerpts from the best of the eight contending countries will be presented followed by a pyrotechnics exhibition by the Philippines.

Floater found in Las Piñas creek

THE BODY of an elderly man was found floating in a creek on C-5 in Talon Dos, Las Piñas City yesterday, police said. PO3 Poul Bacal, case investigator, said barangay official Rolando dela Cruz immediately sought police assistance after a resident found the still unidentified victim floating in a creek in Barangay Manuyo Uno around 7:10 a.m. Cruz told the man was wearing green T-shirt and khaki shorts. He was described as between 60 and 65 years old, of medium build and about 4'9" tall. Cruz said the man apparently died of drowning as the body did not bear signs of external injuries.

Marlon Ramos

BF residents cry foul over ₱10 fee

By Marlon Ramos and Allison W. Lopez

RESIDENTS OF BF HOMES have criticized Las Piñas City Mayor Vilma Medina for allegedly misleading the public over the proposed payment of a right of way fee. A BF HOMES homeowners' association, Inc. (BFHAI), homeowners lobbied Medina's claim that they were the ones who had proposed that P10 be added to their water bill for four years.

Under the proposal, the amount collected will then go to BFHAI as compensation for hiring Maynilad install water pipes in the Las Piñas portion of the subdivision.

"That's ridiculous. Who will want to pay for something that's passably illegal and disputed?" an elderly woman said during the meeting.

"If there's somebody who must pay, it's (BFHAI). They should pay us in billions (of pesos) after they neglected us," another resident, Hermann Juntan, 74, said.

He added, "They (have) abandoned their responsibility (of) providing basic services such as water and security for the past two decades."

Another group of homeowners claimed that the rate increase did not consider them regarding the add-on charge.

Antonio Tinsay, BFHAI director, said the homeowners did not mention in the meeting they had with Las Piñas that they were willing to shoulder the additional cost of Maynilad's pipelaying projects in the subdivision.

"We are questioning the propriety and rationale of making such a payment to BFHAI," Tinsay said after the hearing.

Medina, however, stood pat on his claim that the proposed P10 add-on fee came from residents themselves.

"The kanin (as) galing run (It really came from them)," he said, adding that the business connected him for comment.

The chief of staff of Mayor Vergel Aguilar, meanwhile, clarified that Medina was referring to one of the many endorsements of homeowners' associations.

"The proposal came from the Federation of 60 International Homeowners Association. The P10 add-on (fee) is just compensation to BFHAI for right of way (rights)," said Shah Barino.

Some claimed those were other homeowners groups in Las Piñas that said they were in favor of the add-on fee during the meeting last week.

Army official accuses fellow soldiers of negligence

By Allison W. Lopez

AN ARMY OFFICER YESTERDAY accused of negligence several soldiers stationed at the gates of the Philippine Army headquarters in Taguig City after they failed to report a motorcycle accident involving his late brother.

On Oct. 5, Edgar Sucsuma, 53, was hit by a motorcycle being driven by Staff Sgt. Rosario Serrano Jr., as collided that assigned to the Seventy-fourth Battalion.

Sucsuma died at the Veterans Memorial Hospital after several hours due to head and body injuries.

His brother Sucsuma, the victim's son, said the accident would have gone unreported had he not complained.

"What if my father did not have an officer as a son? What if this happened to a student? It's standard operating procedure for soldiers on duty at the time of the accident.

He added that his father, a retiree was on his way home when he was hit by the motorcycle near the gates of the Army headquarters.

Fortunado, who is still receiving in the hospital, now faces charges of reckless imprudence resulting in homicide.

The younger Sucsuma said one of the soldiers stationed at the gate admitted in his affidavit to the police that he was told not to write a spot report about the accident since that's not the army's policy.

Sucsuma said it has the guards on duty were negligent of their duties because after the accident, they alerted only the military police but did not forward it to their logbook nor did they report it on the next shift.

"If I hadn't gone the next day, they wouldn't have made a spot report," he added.

Sucsuma claimed that he and a police officer also found out that aside from driving an unregistered motorcycle, Fortunado was carrying an expired driver's license.

He added that he planned to file a criminal complaint against the military police and the gate guards.

"I'm not here to destroy the credibility of the Philippine Army. I was a company commander once but I would make sure that my men got what they deserve if they make a mistake. These things should not be tolerated," he said.

Very sick baby needs help

JOHANNA TEJADA MEDALLA, a single mother with three children, is asking for help for her nine-month-old daughter, Janine Marie Honesia.

"My daughter Janine was born with a life-threatening condition called biliary atresia. Her liver cannot drain its waste products. This causes an irreversible condition wasting with hepatitis which can later develop into liver cirrhosis and liver failure in a very short time," she told this bureau.

Medalla said her baby needs to undergo a liver transplant to prevent organ failure. Her doctors told that due to the best time for her to undergo the procedure which, unfortunately, can only be done in Taiwan at the cost of P5 million.

Those willing to help Janine can deposit their donations to any Banco de Oro branch under the account name of Johanna T. Medalla with savings account number 4790 57944. Medalla can be contacted at 9320867, cell phone 0922 829 1295, 0917 7926473 or e-mail medalla2003@yahoo.com.

Pinay's tenacity leads to credit card thief's arrest in Manila

By Jeannette I. Andrade

THE TENACITY OF THE 31 Ilonggo wife of an American judge led to the arrest of a Nigerian national accused of credit card fraud and identity theft.

Bernard Ubuoh, 47, a Nigerian and a resident of Dilimon, Quezon City, was arrested on Oct. 7 by National Bureau of Investigation Agents in a mall in Manila with the help of Editha Torres.

Torres, who is married to James Torres, a retired judge from Oklahoma, said Ubuoh stole money from the befriended Times in an attempt to get him to agree to meet her.

Before that, she said that she and her husband found out that someone had charged more than $10,000 to their credit card.

She added that she decided to go to all the 39 stores where the transactions which were charged to her husband's credit card were carried out.

In each store, she was told that the purchases were made by a black man in his 40s who showed as proof of his identifications a driver's license issued by the state of Oklahoma.

In one of the stores she went to, Edith he said she got a copy of a receipt which listed the cardholder's cellphone number.

On Oct. 2, she called up the number and started befriending the Nigerian, telling him that she was also one of the Times.

"He told me his name was John but he would not give me his last name. I then convinced him that we should set up an 'eyeball' (face-to-face meeting) for a possible date," she said.

She then sought the help of agents of the NBI Anti-Fraud and Computer Crimes Division (AFCCD).

When agents finally accosted Ubuoh, he confessed to using James' credit card but refused to say how he got hold of it or the fake driver's license.

At a press conference yesterday, Torres said she knows a lot in the country since 1991, and he bought the credit card and driver's license for $3000 from a Filipina named "Lopez." He, however, did not specify how he and Lopez met.

NBI Director Nestor Mantaring pointed out that the card used by Ubuoh was a replacement for Times' expired card. The human is still investigating how he came by the card as well as the driver's license.

"He is a very busy human being, is involved while in transit," Mantaring stressed, adding that agents of the AFCCD were conducting follow-up operations against Ubuoh's accomplices.

Arnez, meanwhile, said that the only people hurt by the fraud was the credit card company which shouldered all the expenses. "It's Citibank from a country that is very, very poor and where crimes like this abound. I told no one to agonize from; but I think there is a lot more going on. He even called my bank and confirmed that I was in Manila travelling. Someone did a lot of background work. There are more people involved," he told reporters as he pointed his wife for all the work she did.

"I could never find a better wife than her. She is the love with my man would ever have," he said.

BENSON Ubuoh, a Nigerian accused of credit card fraud, is presented by NBI agents to media.

File charges against me, Parañaque mayor dares congressman

By Marlon Ramos

ANTIPORDE ADVOCATES YESterday claimed that the delay in the resolution of graft cases filed against Parañaque Mayor Florencio Bernabe could be traced to the fact that his close ties enabled him to stop officials of the Office of the Ombudsman.

In a news briefing, the Citizens Crime Watch (CCW) urged Bernabe to "come clean" on allegations of corruption when Parañaque Rep. Eduardo Zialcita revealed in a privilege speech at the House of Representatives last week.

"The cases against the mayor have been (pending) in the (Office of the) Ombudsman since 2006. It's not surprising be-

cause I am sure that the son of a senior prosecutor of the Ombudsman is the city administrator of Parañaque," lawyer Jose Villegas, CCW founding chairman, said.

Villegas was obviously referring to deputized Ombudsman Jose de Jesus, whose son Nicanor was appointed by Bernabe as city administrator in 2007.

Among the allegations raised against Bernabe were the supposed anomalous withdrawal of P10 million worth of intelligence funds and overpricing in various infrastructure projects.

In a statement, Bernabe downplayed Zialcita's serious claims, branding them as "old news" and "half-truths."

He also challenged the lawmaker to sue him if he had any evidence to back up his "fairy tales."

"I'm sure Ombudsman De Leon would indeed himself if a case against me is filed before his office. I don't think he would intervene on my behalf. He doesn't even know me," Bernabe added.

SM Responds to Victims of Typhoon Pepeng in Pangasinan

SM Prime Holdings, Inc. and SM Supermalls immediately responded to the call for rescue and relief operations in Pangasinan to help out victims of Typhoon Pepeng. The company utilizing its resources, as well as employing the help of the Philippine Navy, conducted evacuation efforts as well as started sending relief goods to the area.

The efforts were led by none other than SM Prime Holdings, Inc. President Mr. Hans T. Sy, who personally flew to Rosales, Pangasinan to oversee and participate in the operations. This involved the evacuation of people to safer grounds and to take sick people to San Carlos City hospital.

SM Supermalls President Ms. Annie S. Garcia, meanwhile is overseeing the packing of relief goods that will be sent shortly to Pangasinan for the victims. This is done through the effort of Operation Tulong Express where donation bins are set up in all SM Supermalls nationwide. This is in partnership with Caritas Manila (For Typhoon Ondoy victims) and SM Foundation, Inc.

Operation Tulong Express is currently accepting and assembling donations to be sent to Rosales, Pangasinan for distribution. Operation Tulong Hotlines are open for inquiries. Interested parties may call 928-5873777 or email tulong@smsupermalls.com. For cash donations, you may deposit them to SM Foundation, Inc. BDO Account No. 1500070694.

Why blame God for our folly?

AS IF THE DEVASTATING flood-caused by Tropical Storm "Ondoy" in Metro Manila and neighboring places were not enough, Typhoon "Pepeng" has flooded many areas in Northern Luzon.

Scenes have battered the country one after the other, bringing untold misery to hundreds of thousands of people.

"Man, God is punishing us!" said a friend.

I told him The Answer doesn't punish beings made in its own image no matter how sinful we are.

God is nonjudgmental; it's only we who give God human attributes like vindictiveness, penchant for punishment, etc.

We are now suffering from the consequences of our maltreatment of Mother Nature. Throwing our wastes into rivers, creeks, canals and estuaries; and indiscriminately cutting down trees in the mountains and in our forests.

It's Mother Nature getting back at us.

Why blame God for our folly?

* * *

We reap what we sow.

We're now reaping the whirlwind because we've treated the environment wildly.

Unless we change our ways and treat our environment with respect, we should expect more wild winds to come our way in the future.

* * *

Pope Benedict XVI said the Philippines needs upright leaders.

Perhaps the Pope didn't learn that the person he gave the message to, Philippine Ambassador to the Vatican Mercedes Arimitia Tuason, is a relative of Mike Arroyo, the President's husband.

Let the struggle against poverty in the Philippines calls for honesty, integrity and an unswerving fidelity to the principles of justice, especially on the part of those entrusted with positions of governance and public administration," the leader of the Catholic Church said.

* * *

The Palace said it welcomed the Pope's call for upright leaders to govern the country.

Pa-Filipinong lang e drumpi.

Boo for the Palace's reaction to the Pope's message to the country: Pinoy-malaysia.

It means 'pretending.'

Pretending that the message did not refer to the Palace occupant.

* * *

President Gloria's popularity rating has gone down further over the past three months, according to the Social Weather Stations.

So, what else is new?

It would have been very big news, because it would be a miracle, if her ratings had gone up.

* * *

Malacañang spokesperson Anthony Golez said God's devotees will be rewarded and vindicated the school that served as their evacuation center would be disciplined.

What will discipline those thieves and vandals?

What if they say, "We're no different from you?"

Thieves steal ₱200,000 worth of gadgets

By DJ Yap

EIGHT ARMED MEN STAGED A pre-dawn robbery at a gadget showroom and took about P200,000 worth of laptop computers and cell phones yesterday in Pasig City.

Senior Supt. Napoleon Villegas, Pasig police chief, said the thieves barged into the Swanson Building on Marcos Highway in Barangay Dela Paz at around 3 a.m. and at gunpoint, disarmed and tied up the two guards posted at the gate.

"They were demanding to use the center but since the center was not there, they just grabbed the cell phones and laptops that were being fixed or on display," Villegas said.

The group fled with two laptop computers and an undetermined number of cell phones on board a black Land Cruiser. Some of the witnesses were able to take down the vehicle's plate number.

London rooftop protesters arrested

LONDON—BRITISH POLICE arrested 20 environmental protesters who climbed onto the roof of the Houses of Parliament, the latest in a series of security breaches at the London landmark.

The demonstrators from Greenpeace, demanding more government action on climate change, were held on suspicion of trespassing on a protected site and criminal damage, the Metropolitan Police said on Monday.

They had used ladders to scale to the roof of the sprawling Parliament complex beside the river Thames and unfurled bright yellow banners saying "Change the politics—Save the climate."

Greenpeace said 50 of its volunteers took part to call for a "new style of politics in Britain" when MPs return from their summer break on Monday. About 20 protesters remain on the roof.

In February 2008, protesters opposed to the expansion of Heathrow Airport climbed the roof of Parliament and fathers' rights campaigners pelted them. Prime Minister Tony Blair with purple powder inside the House of Commons in 2004.

Greenpeace said the remaining protesters plan to stay on Parliament's roof overnight and leave on Monday. They said they told police after they were and what they planned to do before scaling the building. Reuters

A PROTESTER belonging to a group calling for action against climate change descends a ladder from the roof of the Parliament in London, with Big Ben's clock tower in background, on Oct. 12. AP

Pakistani police had warned about raid on HQ

ISLAMABAD—THE MASTERMIND of the militant assault on Saturday that shook the heart of the Pakistani military was behind two other major attacks in the last two years, and the police had specifically warned in the military in July that such an audacious raid was being planned, police said in intelligence officials said on Sunday.

The revelation of prior warning was sure to intensify scrutiny of Pakistan's ability to fight militants, after nine nerve-wracking Army uniforms breached the military headquarters complex in Rawalpindi and held dozens hostage for 20 hours until a commando raid ended the siege. In all, 15 people were killed, including eight of the attackers, the military said.

The surviving militant, who was captured early Sunday morning, was identified as Mohammad Aqeel, who officials said was a former soldier and the planner of this attack and others. Aqeel, who is also known as Dr. Usman because he had once worked with the Army Medical Corps before dropping out about four years ago, is believed to be a member of Lashkar-e-Jhangvi, a militant group affiliated with al Qaeda and the Pakistani Taliban.

The Army has been promising to fight harder against the Taliban and insurgency boiled up in the tribal region of South Waziristan until provoked from the Obama administration, which is about to secure a major aid package that would give $1.5 billion a year to the government here.

The attack on the headquarters was a signal that the Taliban insurgency had penetrated deeply into Punjab province, where the military headquarters are located, and was no longer confined to the rural tribal areas that served as the operational center for the Pakistani Taliban.

The militant leader, Aqeel, led the commando operations against the Sri Lankan cricket team during its visit to Lahore earlier this year, according to a senior police officer in Punjab involved in the investigation into that assault. He was also behind the suicide bombing that killed the Army surgeon general in 2008, military officials said.

In a warning to the authorities in July, the criminal investigation department of the police in Punjab said the militants who smashed the Sri Lankan cricket team in March would make a similar kind of assault on military headquarters. The warning, contained in a letter to the leading intelligence agencies, predicted militants would dress in military uniforms and would try to take hostages at the headquarters.

The contents of the letter were published in the Dawn, a newspaper of a leading newspaper, The News, and were confirmed on Sunday by a senior official of the criminal investigation department. NYT

Sweat lodge deaths in Arizona trigger soul-searching

SEDONA, ARIZ.—TUCKED IN to stunning red rock formations and canyons punctuated with splashes of green junipers, this town of about 11,500 has long been a high-end golf and tennis resort and a favorite destination for hikers, rock climbers, cyclists and sightseers.

It has also become world-renowned as a New Age mecca, physical center, attracting seekers and followers of an assortment of spiritual pathways, many of them based somewhat loosely on Native American traditions, including the ceremonial sweat lodge.

But the deaths of two people in a sweat lodge last week at Angel Valley, a spiritual retreat about six miles south of Sedona, is causing soul-searching among New Age practitioners and concern among town leaders.

"We are severely impacted by the fact that this happened," said Sedona's mayor, Rob Adams. "We need to get to the bottom of what happened."

Kirby Brown, 58, of Paso town, N.Y., and James Shore, 49, of Milwaukee, died on Thursday after collapsing inside the lodge. Three other people were airlifted in critical condition to Flagstaff Medical Center.

James Arthur Ray, a self-help expert from Carlsbad, Calif., led what was billed as a "spiritual warrior" experience at Angel Valley, concluding with a sweat lodge ceremony. Participants paid about $9,000 each for the five-day retreat.

The authorities say that at any one time 55 to 65 people were packed in a tent-like structure in a 415-square-foot structure that was 33 inches high at the center and 39 inches high on the perimeter. Ray's employees built the wood-frame lodge, which was wrapped in blankets and plastic tarps. Hot rocks were brought into the lodge and doused with water. Ray, who conducted the ceremony, left the area on Thursday after declining to give a statement to the police.

Sheriff Steve Waugh of Yavapai County said an investigation into the deaths would continue for several weeks. Ray, the Angel Valley owners, Michael and Amaya Hamilton, and all the participants are part of the investigation, Waugh said.

At least seven other people have died in ceremonial sweat lodges since 1993 in the United States, England and Australia, according to news accounts compiled by Alison Cassell, an assistant professor of history at San Antonio College who also moderates a website called NewAgeFraud.org. NYT

India's political families proliferate

ASHRAWET, INDIA—NARENDRA Bhaldwaut, his face sunburned from campaigning in the blistering sun, says he is running for office as a woman: man. His pink dhoti is suggestive otherwise, though, since common men in India usually toil unshirted without requiring incentives.

Another clue is the elephant in every room. Mr. Bhaldwaut campaigns in this city in Maharashtra state. Mrs. She is Pratibha Patil, the president of India.

"I'm not using my parents' name at all. I'm running on my own," Bhaldwaut, 42, said. "But for sure, being in a political family for so many years does help one."

Democracy in Inch on the electorate ideal that anyone can be elected, but in India it helps to be part of a political family. The Indira Gandhi dynasty, scion of the governing Congress Party, is India's version of the Kennedys.

But other political dynasties have proliferated so rapidly that many analysts believe corpulent is corroding the system, at least some of the 32 members of Prime Minister Manmohan Singh's Cabinet either descended from political families or have children seeking or holding office.

"It has gotten into the DNA of the [ruling] political system," said Jagdeep Chhokar, a member of the Association for Democratic Reform in New Delhi. "To control the workings of the party the leader depends on trusted people. And one of the traditions of Indian culture is that you trust family members more than outsiders."

Few political families are eager to step away from the power and lure of office. In Haryana state, which has several local dynasties, a study conducted after lawmakers in the state election had increased their personal wealth by 500 percent, on average, during their years in office.

Here in Amravati, the decision by Congress leaders to run Bhaldwaut for Gen. 13 elections has provoked no angry backlash. He is running for a seven-assembly seat in the district where his parents once held office. AP

US visitors on expired visas unnoticed

DELHI—EIGHT YEARS AFTER THE SEPT. 11 terrorist attacks and despite repeated mandates from Congress, the United States still has no reliable system for determining whether millions of foreign visitors leave the country after their visas expire.

New concern was focused on that security loophole last week, when Hosam Maher Husein Smadi, a 19-year-old Jordanian who had overstayed his tourist visa, was arrested in court of planning to blow up a Dallas skyscraper. Last year alone, 2.9 million foreign visitors on temporary visas like Smadi's reached the end of their legal stays and never officially checked out, immigration officials said. While officials say they have no way to confirm it, they suspect that several hundred thousand of them overstayed their visas.

Overall, the officials said, about 40 percent of the estimated 11 million illegal immigrants in the United States came on legal visas and overstayed.

Smadi's case has brought renewed calls from both parties in Congress for Department of Homeland Security officials to complete a controversial electronic monitoring system.

Rep. Lamar Smith of Texas, the senior Republican on the House Judiciary Committee, said the Smadi case "points to a real need for an entry and exit system if we are serious about reducing illegal immigration."

Sen. Charles E. Schumer, D-N.Y., and chair of the Judiciary Committee's subcommittee on immigration, said he would try to move money from the economic stimulus program to build the system mandated by law.

Since the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks, immigration authorities, with more than $1 billion from Congress, have greatly improved and expanded their systems to monitor foreigners when they arrive. But despite several congressional authorizations, there are no biometric inspections or systematic follow-up to confirm that foreign visitors have departed. NYT

Looming information glut threatens computer science

MOUNTAIN VIEW, CALIF.—Researchers and workers in fields as diverse as bio-technology, astronomy and computer science will soon find themselves overwhelmed with information. Better telescopes and genome sequencers are as much to blame for this data glut as are faster computers and bigger hard drives.

While consumers are just starting to comprehend the idea of buying external hard drives for the home capable of storing a terabyte of data, computer scientists must grapple with ways to sort thousands of them at large and growing ever larger. (A single terabyte equals 1,000 gigabytes and could store about 1,000 copies of the Encyclopedia Britannica.)

The next generation of computer scientists has to think in terms of what could be described as Internet scale. Facebook, for example, uses more than 1 petabyte of storage space to manage its users' 40 billion photos. (A petabyte is about 1,000 times as large as a terabyte, or 1,000 gigabytes.)

For the most part, however, university students have used rather modest computing systems to support their studying. "If they inquire on their small systems, they become their frame of reference and what they're always thinking about," said Jim Spohrer, a director at IBM's Almaden Research Center.

Two years ago, IBM and Google set out to change the mindset of researchers by getting students broad access to some of the largest computers on the planet. The companies then unclitched the computers with software that lets any companies used to tackle their toughest data analysis.

Rather than build a big computer at each university, the companies created a system that let students and researchers tap into giant computers over the Internet. NYT

Pope canonizes leper priest, 4 others

ROME—POPE BENEDICT XVI canonized five Catholics on Sunday, including a 19th-century Belgian priest who worked with lepers in Hawaii.

In his homily, Benedict urged the faithful to learn from "the luminous examples of these saints," men and women who "did not put themselves at the center but chose to go against the current and live according to the Gospel."

A large delegation from Hawaii attended the ceremony, including a Hawaii resident who recovered from cancer after praying to the Belgian-born priest, Josef De Veuster, known as Father Damien. The Vatican deemed his recovery a miracle.

Damien died of leprosy in 1889 after years tending to the sick on the island of Molokai.

President Barack Obama, who spent part of his childhood in Hawaii, praised Damien, saying he revealed "many cures for many youth" about him.

"In our own time, as millions around the world suffer from disease, especially the pandemic of HIV/AIDS, we should draw on the example of Father Damien's resolve in answering the urgent call to heal and care for the sick," the president said in a statement.

TAPESTRY depicting Father Damien hangs from the St. Peter's Basilica facade.

The delegation to the ceremony included King Albert II and Queen Paola of Belgium, Washington's new ambassador to the Vatican, Miguel H. Diaz, and Sen. Daniel K. Akaka of Hawaii.

After the ceremony, Benedict urged the faithful to pray and help "all those engaged with generosity in the fight against leprosy and against other forms of leprosy caused by lack of love, ignorance and cosmolifestyles."

The other new saints include Zygmunt Szczesny Felinski, a 19th-century archbishop of Warsaw who helped defend the Catholic Church during Poland's occupation by Russia, and Jeanne Jugan, a French nun who helped found the Little Sisters of the Poor, which runs homes for the elderly.

Benedict also canonized two Spaniards: Francisco Coll y Guitart, who founded an order of Dominicans in the 19th century, and Rafael Arnaiz Baron, who renounced his rich upbringing to dedicate himself to prayer. NYT

The WORLD

Cito Lorenzo B. Gozo

In US, poison, invective at the speed of light

WASHINGTON—VITRIOL and invective stain American political history, but the poison of falsehoods, half-truths and innuendo now spread with the speed of light across partisan airwaves and the Internet—the dirt drowning out the country's moderate political voices.

Guardian Investor blogs have taken on the admirable visions of the first African-American president, claiming—falsely—that President Barack Obama isn't an American citizen, is a secret Muslim, is a socialist, wants to establish death panels to decide which elderly Americans would no longer receive medical care and he allowed to die. The list is long.

Most recently, a partisan furor blew up when President Obama won the Nobel Peace Prize. Opposition Republican radio host Michael Savage set the tone, declaring that giving the prize to the US commander in chief showed "how unscrupulous a once honorable and respected award has become."

Obama's predecessor, George W. Bush, was not immune, nor was former Democratic Bill Clinton. But today the evidence of unyielding partisanship is clearing the American electorate; perhaps, as deeply as at any time since the US Civil War's century-and-a-half ago.

"The environment is much more extreme today because of the level of public interdependence, the level of incredibly among both the political elite and the public," said Chris Dolan, a political scientist at Lebanon Valley College, Annville, Pennsylvania.

At Meredith College in Raleigh, North Carolina, Chris Frazier said: "It is nasty and getting nastier." While he believes American history is littered with divisive political periods and nasties claims among politicians, Frazier, who is political scientist, says today's climate purely the result of the "media culture."

"Verbal norms as well. If you are telling people the end of the world is at hand, they search," Frazier said.

From the lectern at the White House briefing room, spokesperson Robert Gibbs routinely bemoans what he sees as the negative slant on coverage of Obama by the conservative Fox News cable television outlet.

While Americans once sought news from media outlets that aimed for objectivity, they are now turning to sources that reinforce their political viewpoints, fueling the conservative Fox news and the liberal MSNBC or cable television and the exploding blogosphere that reigns across the political spectrum.

The heated partisan atmosphere produced a staggering break with decorum last month when a member of the House of Representatives shouted out "You lie!" as Obama spoke to a joint session of Congress, recalling his efforts to overhaul the American health care system.

Rep. Joe Wilson's outburst drew the South Carolina Republican a rebuke from the House, but, tellingly, supporters quickly began donating heavily to his political war chest. Obama backers did the same for Wilson's Democratic opponent in the 2010 election. AP

UN admits 'widespread fraud' in Afghan election

KABUL—THE TOP UN official in Afghanistan has acknowledged "widespread fraud" in the disputed presidential election and rejected allegations from a former deputy that he covered up cheating to smooth the path to victory for President Hamid Karzai.

The remarks by Norwegian diplomat Kai Eide appeared designed to win back respect for both the troubled UN mission and the entire election process ahead of a ruling by investigators on whether fraud was rampant enough to tilt the Aug. 20 balloting to require a runoff.

Eide's reputation was tarnished when his deputy Peter Galbraith alleged that the UN mission chief played down allegations of widespread ballot-stuffing by Karzai's supporters. Galbraith, the top-ranking American in the UN mission, was fired Sept. 30 by UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon after the widely publicized dispute.

A UN-backed fraud panel is expected to decide this week whether to throw out enough votes to require a runoff between Karzai and his top challenger, Abdullah Abdullah. Doubts about the UN's neutrality could throw the panel's ruling into question.

It is a setback to hopes of the Obama administration and its international partners that the vote—the first presidential election run by Afghans—would restore legitimacy in a government plagued by weakness and corruption.

Karzai told a news conference that "confusion" over election results had been "created by Western elements in our country." He did not elaborate.

At a separate news conference, Eide said Galbraith's allegations were serious but no one came and taken out of context in efforts. Eide was flanked by ambassadors from the United States, Britain and France in a show of international support for the UN mission and its embattled leader.

Eide said he could "only say that there was widespread fraud" and that "any specific figure at this time would be pure speculation" until the recount is complete.

Final results have been delayed by more than a month as a UN-backed panel set up as a check on the Afghan-appointed election commission examines complaints and suspicious votes. Though preliminary tallies show Karzai winning with almost 54 percent, enough Karzai ballots are suspect that the ending of fraudulent votes could drop him below the 50 percent threshold needed to avoid a runoff.

Last week, Galbraith said he was sticking by his allegations and said the election fraud had been "preventable."

AFGHAN boys search US soldiers on patrol on Oct. 8 in Qalaq, Afghanistan. AFP

Among other things, Galbraith complained that polling stations were allowed to open in areas that were inaccessible, raising the likelihood of fraud. Eide said military operations were launched in a bid to secure to open as many stations as possible so Afghans in those areas had the opportunity to vote.

Once the election results become clear, President Barack Obama is expected to complete a review of Afghan strategy and decide whether to accept a recommendation by his top commander here, Gen. Stanley McChrystal, for up to 40,000 more troops. AP

New music from Michael Jackson: 'This Is It' gets midnight release

JACKSON

MICHAEL JACKSON MAY BE gone, but he isn't finished releasing new music.

The first drop in what might be a flood of unheard Jackson material is a song called "This Is It," which Sony sent to radio stations at midnight on Sunday. Based on a tape containing only Jackson's piano and vocals, a full arrangement was built, complete with strings and his brothers' backup vocals. The song is to run during the closing credits of the new Jackson film, perhaps on coincidentally called "This Is It."

There may be plenty more to come for his fans, whose continued devotion (and spending) have returned him to the top of the charts. Jackson died June 25, and Sony and the Jackson estate have only begun what is expected to be a long process of musical archaeology.

"We probably have at least 100 songs in varying degrees of being finished," said Rob Stringer, chairman of the Columbia Epic Label Group, a Sony division. "And we think there probably is a lot more."

If "This Is It" is any guide, the provenance of those songs might be difficult to establish. It is not clear when the song was recorded or created, Stringer said. Sony originally believed the tape was made around the time of Jackson's 1991 album "Dangerous," but it could have been much earlier.

"This Is It" was slated to have been the title of Jackson's 50-concert run in London, though Stringer said the song was never part of the 31-still, however, he is the soundtrack for the film. The album goes on sale Oct. 27; the film is due out the next day.

Although Sony went to unusual lengths to prevent "This Is It" from being heard before its release, all seconds of it leaked over the weekend. Hinted on the leak, it is a midtempo ballad punctuated by light guitar riffs and rich orchestration. People who have heard the full track describe it as an inspirational love song.

Surprising fans online, however, quickly found that "This Is It" is not exactly new. It bears a strong resemblance to "I Know Heart," a 1993 track by the R&B singer Siedah Garrett. Garrett co-wrote "I Know Heart" with Jackson and Brad Buxer. Stringer said that could that was pointed out by doubting fans, he had not known about the connection. "I really have no idea what the origins of the song are," he said. AFP

Mexico closing the capital's power company amid labor row

MEXICO CITY—THE MEXICAN GOVERNMENT, in the midst of a fierce labor dispute with electrical workers, said on Sunday that it was shutting down a state-run company that supplied power to Mexico City and the surrounding region after ordering hundreds of police officers to occupy the company's installations.

The government said it was closing down the company, Luz y Fuerza del Centro, because its unions' large amounts of electricity through inefficient operations. Another large state-operated electricity company, the Federal Electricity Commission, which provides power for most of the country, will take over Luz y Fuerza's operations, the government said.

Members of the Mexican Electrical Workers Union, which represents Luz y Fuerza workers, marched to the presidential residence and blocked each lane traffic last week after the government refused to recognize the election of her union's newly-appointed, Martín Esparza. The labor ministry had said there were signs of fraudulent voting in the election.

Workers accused the government of meddling in their affairs and trying to bust the union—one of the country's most powerful, representing tens of thousands of workers in Mexico City and the states of Hidalgo, Mexico, Morelos and Puebla. It said it had no plans to strike or disrupt power service.

Luz y Fuerza, which receives billions in subsidies from the state, has long been criticized by businesses and residents alike for its high costs and shoddy service. AFP

Libo Raul O. Marcelo • Asociate Libo Corrie S. Mariano

BUSINESS

RP importing rice to offset crop damage

By Riza T. Olchondra

THE PHILIPPINES, THE world's biggest rice importer, is set to import 250,000 metric tons (MT) of rice after farmlands across northern Luzon suffered the brunt of recent storms.

The National Food Authority is expected to hold a tender for the shipment on Oct. 30. Date of delivery has been tentatively set between January and April.

The Department of Agriculture was quick to downplay the urgency of the rice importation for 2006.

Officials are concerned that a strong signal may send rice prices skyrocketing, as what had happened in 2004. In April that year, price of the cereal peaked at $1,200 per MT.

JOSEPH SIDDON, spokesperson, Bro Kilosporo said in a phone interview that the decision to ship just a "small amount" of rice ahead of time was meant to minimize the effect on world market prices.

"We usually have our requirements for next year around December, but we did this two months earlier because we don't want to wait until the need is large and urgent," Simpson said. "We also don't want to wait until more typhoons ravage rice-producing countries who may supply us."

Agriculture Secretary Arthur Yap yesterday assured the public that there was enough stock of the staple to last for the rest of the year.

He acknowledged that the country's farmers only harvested 3.7 million MT of rice in the fourth quarter of 2004 (mainly 20 percent off the target of 4.4 million MT).

Still, he said, "even if we don't have our (fourth quarter), we have two months worth of stock. And since we will still harvest, that's good for another 104 days."

Yap said on radio that the storms had caused damage of P13 billion ($237 million) to crops and farmland, but insisted there would be no immediate shortage of rice.

"We don't have a rice supply problem," he stressed.

According to a weekly bulletin published by the NFA, sources considering have been identified as Thailand, Vietnam, China, Pakistan, Australia, the United States and India.

BY INQUIRER.NET

Country still has enough buffer stock, agriculture execs stress

RP posted higher net FDI inflow in July

By Michelle V. Rama

THE PHILIPPINE EQUITY SECURITIES inflow of foreign direct investments in July, something monetary officials credited to the country's sound macroeconomic fundamentals amid a volatile global business environment.

In a statement yesterday, the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas said FDI inflows reached $347 million in July, up 8 percent from that recorded in the same month last year.

July's investments brought the FDI inflow for the first seven months of the year to $1.24 billion, up 34 percent from that of last year.

Gross FDI inflows during the seven-month period amounted to $1.46 billion, while gross outflows reached $222 million.

"Foreign capital continued to pour into the Philippine economy, encouraged by the country's sound macroeconomic strengths amid challenging global economic conditions and worries in foreign financial markets," BSP Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. said in the statement.

The central bank said bulk of the gross FDI inflows during the first seven months of the year went to manufacturing, real estate, construction, services, financial intermediation and mining.

Investments came mainly from the United States, Japan, Hong Kong, and the Netherlands, the central bank added.

The Philippines and other emerging markets may expect an increase in foreign direct and portfolio investments in the coming months as in-

BY INQUIRER.NET

IN THIS ISSUE

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Beware of October blues

ON TUESDAY LAST week, I brought up my "sell" feelings about the market. I cited as the reason the summary statistics which, among other things, avoid points have continued to go up with the price of gold becoming increasingly strong.

Gold has been trading at $1,000 per troy ounce, where in the past money from the equity market had been drawn easily for the precious metal. The rise in gold price, too, has been indicative of accumulation trend centered in the stock market.

On the contrary, our market and Wall Street continued to perform quite well and unaffected. On Wall Street, US investors have been lulled by the upbeat news on the US economy's health, particularly on consumer spending, and corporate profits that equity money continue to pour in.

However, you will also find from reports quoting some economists that underneath the apparent impertinence of Wall Street, the movement of money from the equity market to the gold market is happening slowly and surely. They also add to say that a major market correction on Wall Street should be contingency.

Trying to comfort myself with the thought that our odd feelings are unfounded, for this time things must be different, I could not help but be resentful again by the fact that money of the most cunning and unexpected weather crashes had happened—if October.

Results of week 18

At the virtual game, some of the players seem to show my apprehensiveness. Everyone appear experienced bleak of them did not bother to trade during week 18 to position their investment portfolio against any unwanted development, such as a sudden reversal in stock prices.

Only Tran Ric and Tender 28 did some trades on Wednesday

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Guru Teresa S. Lopez will learn the most outlaws that shift industry paradigms and put out purple cows from the imagined halls of entrepreneurs. He will unleash the genius of consumable innovations.

Deal-Making in Entrepreneurship (December 1 - 2)
Guru Danilo A. Antonio will dive into the intricacies of deal-making and venture creation while he divulges the basic do's and don't's of financial packaging.

Turn-Around Entrepreneurship (December 9 - 10)
Guru Alejandrino J. Ferreria will grapple with the complexities and difficulties of turning one's ship into all pulses as he masterfully demystifies the tools and techniques of the consummate turn-around artist.

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Currencies

Market "C" (NEW Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
Euro Country	Euro	1.000000	1.480000	67.5700
Japan	Yen	0.007554	0.010186	0.5100
United Kingdom	Pound	1.07921	1.597200	72.9100
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.128748	0.190488	8.6900
Switzerland	Franc	0.653000	0.966400	44.1000
Canada	Dollar	0.675000	0.999000	45.5900
Australia	Dollar	0.654054	0.975992	44.5448
Australia	Dollar	0.714000	0.984972	45.3671
Taiwan	Dollar	1.401361	2.073264	94.6316
South Korea	Won	0.001172	0.001660	0.0758
Kuwait	Dollar	1.894000	2.803120	127.9300
Saudi Arabia	Riyal	0.266000	0.393680	17.9700
Kuwait	Dollar	1.894000	2.803120	127.9300
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.291000	0.430680	19.6500
Thailand	Baht	0.029000	0.042920	1.9600
UAE	Dirham	0.272000	0.402560	18.3700
EU	Euro	1.000000	1.480000	67.5700
Korea	Won	0.000832	0.001231	0.0562
China	Yuan *	0.104000	0.153920	7.0254
Denmark	Krone	0.134300	0.198764	9.0727
India	Rupee	0.014600	0.021608	0.9864
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.290000	0.429200	19.5900
New Zealand	Dollar	0.600000	0.888000	40.5300
Sweden	Krona	0.106300	0.157324	7.1800
Taiwan	NT Dollar	0.031000	0.045880	2.1000

Source: Market Data Group as at NEW York, Oct. 13, 2009
* Trade limited. Official or quasi-official rates. ** Trade limited, but not officially pegged.

Build up capital cover, rural banks told

By Michelle V. Ramos

THE BANGKO SENTRAL NG PILIPINAS (BSP) has instructed rural banks to prepare for an increase in their capitalization requirements by 2011, saying that this early, troubled institutions should already look for ways to raise the needed capital.

The increase in the capitalization requirement is in compliance with the Basel II accord, under which operational risks of banks must be included in the computation of risks to be covered.

Operational risks include disruptions caused by calamities and losses arising from fraud and systems failure. Currently, only credit risks, which involves potential losses due to default by borrowers, require capital cover.

Basel II is viewed as an improved regulatory framework agreed upon by central banks and other regulators. The objective of the accord is to strengthen banking and finance worldwide, enabling the sectors to withstand economic volatilities.

The BSP requires banks to maintain a capital adequacy ratio (CAR) of 10 percent, higher than the international standard of 8 percent. The BSP said it wanted the regulatory environment in the Philippines to be ahead of those of other countries.

To cover operational risks, rural banks will have to put up additional capital to meet the 10 percent minimum CAR requirement.

CAR is the proportion of capital to a bank's assets exposed to risks.

Unlike universal and commercial banks, which are now required to cover their operational risks, rural banks have been given more leeway—they have until 2011 to increase their capital requirement.

But the Rural Bankers Association of the Philippines (RBAP) said the increase in capitalization requirement by 2011 could potentially threaten the viability of a few rural banks.

RBAP spokesperson Tomas Gomez IV earlier said that although most rural banks would have no problem raising the additional capital cover, some rural banks might not be able to cope with the new requirement.

On the average, rural banks have maintained CAR of 18 percent, much higher than the BSP's 10-percent requirement.

Gomez said the industry's average CAR could go down to 15 percent once the new capitalization requirement takes effect.

Market Rider

From page B1

This little effort, however, paid off in the close of week 38, both registered improved performances along with Integrated, whose investment portfolio managed to stay positive despite the lower close of stock prices last weekend.

The charts below will show more details about how they fared.

Bull are live again

Looking more closely at prices of some stocks, it is possible that the market should be in for a breather. Prices have gone high enough. The 2,000-point hurdle that had served as a major resistance barrier remains to be an overbought level for most stocks.

The lure of profit taking, in the absence of additional positive developments, will drag the market's momentum. To cite a few favorite stocks, the following have reached their 52-week highs: Megaworld Corp. (MEG), P1.74; Alliance Global-Uitelig and Development Corp., P9.70; Pacific Online Systems Corp. (LO-TUS, P1.8; Belle Corp. (BEL), P1.66; Philweb Corp. (WEB), P51; SM Prime Holdings, Inc. (SMPH), P11; DMX Technologies Inc. (DMX), P9.80 and Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. (TEL), P2,670. I would say therefore, that value profits on overbought stocks? This should make sense.

(You may reach the Market Rider at market.rider@inquirer.com.ph or at market.rider@yahoo.com.)

RP importing ...

From page B1

The maximum quantity to be awarded for India is 20,000 MT, while a cap of 50,000 MT was set for Pakistan, Australia, and the United States. No limit has been set for rice coming from Vietnam, Thailand and China.

Suppliers must be able to commit delivery of at least 20 percent of the rice in January 2010, followed by 25 percent in February, 25 percent in March, and the rest in April. With a report from Reuters

RP posted ...

From page B1

restore regain their risk appetite, monetary officials earlier said.

More and more investors are now placing their funds in emerging markets, which have shown resiliency in the face of capital downturns that has crippled most industrialized nations.

Earlier, investors had been pushed to the sidelines due to the economic crunch, which led to dramatic sell-in asset prices.

But reports that the global recovery is on its gradual way to recovery have prompted investors to again seek out money-making opportunities, monetary authorities said.

The BSP expects the country to continue posting net FDI inflows in the months ahead as most cautious due from recession.

Officials said foreign exchange inflows, partly in the form of investments, were the reason the peso had gained momentum.

Last week, the peso hovered in the 46-to-a-dollar territory, hitting its highest level for the year. On Friday, it closed at 46.06 against the US dollar.

Shares ...

From page B1

big gains the previous week, dealers said.

The composite index gave up 11.81 points to close at 2,400.97, while the all-shares index closed at 1,241 points, or 4.39 points, lower than at 1,245.27.

A total of 368.95 million shares worth P2.24 billion (P48 million) were traded.

Decliners led gainers 70 to 33, while 69 issues closed unchanged.

"This is the requested pullback after we broke out of the 2,300 level," Joseph Bono of Eagle Equities told Dow Jones Newswires.

Metro Pacific Investment Corp. shed 1.4 centavos to P3.60 while Metropolitan Bank and Trust Co. fell 2.4 percent to P46. AFP

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Globe, Ayala entry into banking OKd

THE COMPANY'S FIRST MOBILE MICROfinance bank will soon be up and running as the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas has approved the entry of units Bria Globe Telecom and Ayala Corp. into a savings bank unit of Isuzu of the Philippine Islands.

The new bank will be renamed "BPI Globe Banko, A Savings Bank" and will use the license of Philippine Savings Bank. It will be launched this month, said BPI senior vice president Rosario Bay, who will be named president of the new bank.

As agreed upon earlier, BPI and Globe will each own 40 percent of the new bank while Ayala Corp. will get 20 percent.

In a recent interview, Bay said the bank would be nicknamed "Banko"—meaning "my bank"—and would soon open its first branch in Greenhills.

"We're targeted by the BSP to have at least one satellite branch per region for this still really be a mobile bank," Bay said.

The bank will have cardholders who will offer its services. The bank, which will rely on Globe's technology, will offer microfinancing of P5,000 to P150,000. With brand and insurance companies have worth P150,000 to P500,000, and wholesale banking or microfinance involved taxpayers more expensive (MCIs) worth between P500,000 and P50 million. Doris C. Dumlao

T-bill yields drop across the board

Macondray share price up 50%

By Doris C. Dumlao

SHARES OF MACONDRAY PLASTICS HIT the roof at the stock market yesterday on the heels of an expected backdoor listing of a venture of former Trade Minister Roberto V. Ongpin.

Macondray's share price yesterday surged by 50 percent, the maximum increase allowed in the stock market, to close at P3 per share. About 1,000 shares worth P3 million changed hands in the market.

The company's share price has been rising since September, ahead of an announcement that Ongpin's RVO Capital Ventures Corp. had forged a deal to buy an unspecified amount of equity for P2.20 per share or P116.76 million.

Other than the offer by RVO Capital, Macondray said it was not aware of any new developments behind the extraordinary price movement, the firm said in response to a query by the Philippine Stock Exchange.

RVO also made an offer to acquire the shares held by minority shareholders also at P2.20 million. If all holders of the remaining 30.72 million shares will accept the offer, it will cost the group another P67.59 million.

Based on yesterday's finish, Macondray has a market capitalization of P300 million.

Both the financial closing of the buyout agreement and the completion of the tender offer are targeted for Nov. 11 this year.

"The company has been advised by the management of RVO Capital that as the incoming majority shareholder of the Philippines, the management of RVO Capital is evaluating the diversification of the company by investing in other areas, specifically property development," Macondray said.

Ongpin's group has likewise committed to undergo in an ongoing restructuring by Macondray which will spin off the existing core business into a wholly owned subsidiary called Macondray Plastics Products Inc. The new unit will continue to manufacture, import and sell plastic products.

Proceeds from the deal will go mainly to existing Macondray shareholders.

Macondray, which will soon be rebranded, will increase its capital depending on the ventures it will undertake under the Ongpin group.

BTr raised P6.5B as planned

By Reena V. Domingo

TREASURY BILL RATES TENTATIVELY went down across the board, with the yield on the benchmark 91-day T-bill falling by 0.5 basis points to an average of 3.007 percent.

The yield on the 182-day T-bill also fell by 0.4 basis points to 0.138 percent while that for the 364-day issue dropped by 1.7 basis points to 0.360 percent.

National Treasurer Roberto B. Tan believed that the intended of all tenders in the T-bill auction held on Sept. 28 sent a strong signal to investors that the government would afford to pass up borrowing opportunities.

Tan said the rejection decision stemmed "for the primary reason that it was ready to reject unreasonably high rates or rates that were not in line market conditions.

He said the market was very liquid this week considering that P24 billion worth of T-bills and P6 billion in T-bonds were maturing during the period.

In yesterday's auction, the Bureau of the Treasury raised P6.5 billion as planned. Offers were oversubscribed by at least twice.

Buyers tendered a total of P19.9 billion against the BTr's offer of P1 billion for the 91-day T-bill.

They also tendered a total of P9.341 billion or almost five times the P1 billion on offer for the 182-day bill.

Further, lenders raised a total of P7.660 billion to buy P3.3 billion worth of 364-day bills.

Last week, the BTr rejected tenders for P7.5 billion worth of T-bonds, following a successful sale of retail treasury bonds which raised P11.9.4 billion.

Tan said there was no need for additional borrowings—at least from local lenders—despite increased spending needs for repairs and rehabilitation in the wake of the damage wrought by Tropical Storm "Ondoy" and Typhoon "Pepeng."

The Bureau underwent any said there was available funding for disaster response since the Department of Energy recently sold P11.4 billion worth of natural natural gas to Philippine National Oil Co.

Tan said the windfall could be tapped for disaster reparations, but clarified the actual use of the money would depend on Congress and Malacañang.

Coffee output seen to decline this year

By Abigail L. Ho

THE LOCAL COFFEE PRODUCtion is expected to post a decline this year, prompting the need for more imports amid rising demand.

In an interview with reporters yesterday, Philippine Coffee Board cochair Nedia Jean said local production, at the current level of around 70,000 metric tons (MT), is very, was not enough to meet the country's annual coffee consumption of 80,000 MT.

The still underestimated impact of Typhoon Pepeng (international name: Parma) on coffee producing areas in northern Luzon, particularly Benguet and Ifugao, would exacerbate the country's need for more coffee imports, she said.

Coffee Board director and Southwestern Mindanao head Ma. Theresa Capellan said importation was always a solution, as the world market for coffee could always meet individual country demand, "as long as we have the money."

However, she said the more the country imported, the less the incentive for coffee farmers to remain in the industry.

"If we really have no choice, we have to import more. But we have to look at the industry in a number of ways. Do we have enough beans? As long as we have the money, we can get the beans that the country needs. But what will that do to our coffee farmers?" she said.

One initial information indicated that Benguet was largely affected. We still don't know the extent of the damage, but we'll definitely see (a) less (per) year's production level," she added.

Emmanuel Tarrayo, Coffee Board director and north Luzon head, said that based on preliminary estimates, the expected decrease in production from Benguet and the Mt. Province should register a 16 percent decline in overall coffee production.

Some 300 farmers were affected, preliminary estimates showed, he said.

Volume of domestic trade down 11.2% in Q2

AMID THE WORSENING 18-year of the global crisis, the volume of domestic merchandise made in the second quarter were down by 11.2 percent to 4.91 million tons, according to the National Statistics Office (NSO).

On the other hand, the value dipped even more by 36.3 percent year on year to P211.39 billion.

NSO data on the flow of commodities between the country's regions—covering unpost moved by water, air and land transport systems—are used as basis in the formulation and implementation of various regional development programs like countrywide development and peace planning.

In the second quarter, when the domestic economy grew by only 1.40 percent in terms real terms, 95.6 percent of goods were transported by sea.

By value, commodities moved by ships accounted for 59.2 percent of total during the quarter.

Of the goods traded from land to sea, food and live animals contributed the biggest value at P25.6 billion or 31.4 percent of total.

Other top traded goods were machinery and transport equipment, with a share of 13.9 percent or P11.32 billion; and mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials, 17.9 percent or P14.62 billion; and animal and vegetable oils, 0.9 percent or P730 million.

About a third of the goods traded in the second quarter came from the National Capital Region (NCR), valued at P30.04 billion or 37.7 percent of total.

The other major exporters to other regions were Northern Mindanao, P19.96 billion or 25 percent; Western Visayas, with P17.40 billion or 13.9 percent; and Central Luzon, P13.5 billion or 9.4 percent.

Cagayan Valley shipped out the least amount with only P84,000 worth of goods.

Reena V. Domingo

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Editor Thelma Sioson San Juan

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Governor jet skis to save lives

By Margie C. Enriquez
Contributor

A JET SKIER, LEYTE GOV. CARLOS Jericho "Jiboy" Petilla has learned the swells of the deep sea and wins the many waters of Metro Manila. But his biggest challenge was confronting the floods in Marikina, endangered by torrential rains, garbage and car wrecks at the height of Tropical Storm "Ondoy."

Petilla rose to quickly a career joining diplomat to Cebu. But he got bored when seamen were more interested in the ute's engine size rather than the driver's skill.

"For years ago, he took up an extreme sport, jet skiing, albeit offshore, where the His is a passion/fitness regimen that was put to good use in the calamity

conditions are far from plenty. The sport has not only given him an adrenaline rush and perseverance, it's During emergencies, his personal watercraft (PWC) has helped save communities.

A sportsman, Petilla has raced from Cebu to Leyte and Leyte to Biliran. He even turned his limits by riding the rough waters during typhoon signal No. 3.

"It's not advisable. We were 10 nautical miles going toward the deep sea. The conditions were violent," he recalls.

He has even challenged himself on land. Yet skis are not supposed to run on the streets of Metro Manila but I had the chance. You can't maneuver because the streets are narrow, making it harder to turn and there's so much crash."

In perseverance, Petilla uses his three jet skis more for relief operations in Leyte's coastal barangays where roads are inaccessible. After a typhoon, it would take a four-wheel drive motor vehicle to reach the barangays in two or three days. With his jet ski, Petilla covers five barangays in eight hours.

"I immediately need to move the barangay officials and size up the situation so that we can bring relief goods. You don't want to do a relief operation three days after."

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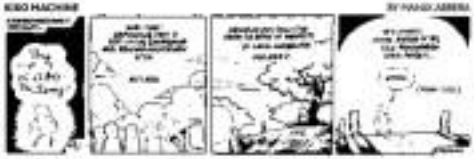


HOROSCOPE

By Francis Drake

ARIES (March 21 to April 20): It's easy to get along with co-workers today. Despite your participation, you might be keen to compare your workspace or make it look more like your home. This new insight motivates how to improve your health.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): There is lots of time, fancy-wise in the air today. Use it to plan a weekend trip to the sea or mountains. If you are into outings, plan for activities with children and are particularly creative.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): What can you do to make others your life look more glamorous? If you want to buy something for your home, purchase it today. Tomorrow, however, is a homebound, you can effective shop or make your plans today.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): Your ability to call shots, act or persuade positively to do anything is high today. You are very social and have some and charm. Any boss one of energy!

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): This is a favorable day for financial matters. Be careful. However, if you have to sign anything important, read and understand it.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): Everyone will enjoy your company today, but you may prefer your social and friendly with others. You're upbeat, happy and in a good mood!

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): Surrender to beautiful things today. Buy flowers for your home. Take a walk in a park if you can. Avoid areas far a way or coffee with your favorite companions.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): All kinds of group gatherings and meetings will please you today. You are in a good mood in the company of others. You might find someone how much you care for him or her.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): Don't be surprised if someone asks you for your creative or artistic input on some. Showing off your talents with a solo or different figure can do today.

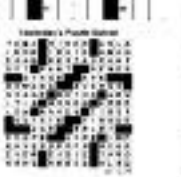
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): Study any opportunity to travel, explore, attend today. Similarly, jump at invitations to go for free education. Something exciting might come your way today.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): Today you can surround from the wealth of others. Gifts, goodies and favors might come to you. Discomfort, attend and buy them now!

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): This is an excellent day for important decisions with your parents and close friends. You generally enjoy talking to loved ones today because of reading of news, of affection promotes or new adventures are in progress.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

Yesterday's Puzzle Solved



CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

Conceptis Sudoku By Dave Taylor

7	3	1				5	6	2
4								9
	8			3			7	
			3		2			
		2		5		3		
			1		8			
	5			6			2	
8								1
2	1	6				9	5	3

Difficulty Level ★★

HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9.
Tips and programs at www.sudoku.com

Answers to previous puzzle:

8	3	1	6	9	7	5	2	4
7	5	2	4	3	8	9	6	1
9	6	4	2	1	5	3	7	8
1	2	9	3	8	6	4	5	7
3	8	5	7	4	2	6	1	9
6	4	7	1	5	9	8	3	2
2	9	8	5	6	1	7	4	3
5	1	3	8	7	4	2	9	6
4	7	6	9	2	3	1	8	5

Governor jet skis to save lives

From page C2

Speed boats and rubber boats took him up.

Braving floods

Last Sept. 26, Padilla took a morning flight to Manila for a meeting at Clark Philippine International Airport but couldn't land because the whole area was flooded. He left his mobile phone in Leyte, unaware that friends and relatives in some parts of Quezon City and Marikina were sending text messages, panicking about the flood because they had experienced these before. The wife called his aide to relay the news.

Trapped in traffic, Padilla could not go to Manila Yacht Club to get his yacht. He and his aides walked to Cubao, where he was ferried. After pinning up what did in his Cubao apartment, he reached Marikina at 9 p.m.

"I had my mother and cats. It took us 90 minutes from Cubao to Marikina. My only regret was that I could not launch earlier. If we did, we could have saved more," he says.

On his way to Provident Village to help his relatives and friends, he passed by Barangka, the oldest district in Marikina. There were soldiers with two rubber boats for rescue but had no machinery to speed them.

The flood at Provident, located at Loyola Memorial Park was harmful, making it impossible to cross it without being overwhelmed by the waves. Padilla had to use a rope between the poles so people could hang on to it for safety. "It took us four hours to do it. We kept losing the rope. I would not bring me on the jet ski," says Padilla.

Upon reaching Provident Village, Padilla had difficulty controlling his jet ski, avoiding a pile of ski cars in the main lanes. He later learned that the ski cars were merely the top of the long, 40 meter SUV vehicle submerged in flood. He was able to reach his brother and friends at midnight. Moreover, there were two rescue boats, one private and one military, that could not pass through. The water reached the sizes of the electric post, posing danger of electrification.

Padilla skillfully maneuvered his jet ski. However, the rising tide, current and water made it impossible to save anybody. Initially, the victims were desperate and tried to save some building parts to leave their place. Then the rehabbing engine of the jet ski and eight of rubber boats gave people hope.

"You can save only a vessel in a short a time. You just have to make it known to them that if you always come to help, they will have confidence in you," says Padilla.

Padilla told President Village at 10 a.m. Sunday morning. In hindsight, he says although the government may have more soft or rescue boats during crisis, the challenge was having the stamina posed by natural or man-made calamities. On his part, he was glad that he was able to use his motorsports/PWCs for rescue.

Physically demanding

Asked if there were photographs documenting the rescue, he replies, "We lost cell phones and cameras. There was no media there. That was a rescue not a media operation."

With his heart in sports, Padilla still dreams of jet skiing from Manila to Zamboanga. "On hey! I get old," says the 46-year-old governor.

Jet skiing is physically demanding. It has to be done while you're still young. When you get old in a blooper event, you are now more where there are no waves. When you go off shore, you ride 12-foot waves. Even in fresh waves, you go up and down. You can't sit because your buttocks will hurt. You squat. A crash is needed to protect your knee. You go up and down, the waves thousands of times before you reach your destination. It's like training in the gym for several hours. It works out the triceps, legs and chest."

Padilla has been working out in the gym before he took up the water sport and plays badminton to build forearms.

"Jet skiing may look easy," he says. "But when you ride all alone, you need to be very fit."

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How to cope with calamity

By Mitch Felipe-Mendoza
Lifestyle Reporter

FOR THOSE WHOSE LIVES AND property were devastated by Tropical Storm "Ondoy" it is important to have an improved frame of mind in order to move on.

Develop a strong mind and body. Improve your fitness level by walking outside your home, moving around all the time, cleaning your house or helping others in recognizing their place and backyard.

You can cope more easily after a disaster if you've been used to living a simple life.

Buy fresh fruits and vegetables, fish and chicken that you can prepare immediately instead of going to cardboard restaurants. But foods that will help keep your heart and immune system healthy. This will also make your body "stress proof" during extreme weather conditions.

Aside from avoiding diseases and weight problems, you can even save money which you can donate to calamity victims.

Coping mechanism

According to the book "Controlling Stress and Tension: A Holistic Approach" by Daniel Girdano, George Dreshay Jr. and Dorothy Girards, coping mechanisms for traumatic situations such as death of someone and natural calamities involve management of the traumatic events and one's role in

MEDITATION is one coping mechanism.

FRUITS and veggies for healthy body

creating control over the traumatic situation, obtaining social support and changing one's assumption about the world.

Restructure your thoughts which will have a great impact on your current feelings and behavior. Find positive meaning in the situation to achieve stress. Some victims discover their inner strength which allows them to feel "meaning" or a message in a catastrophe.

Increase sense of self control by engaging in activities that will help you regain confidence after a period of disinterest and recovery. This will depend on available resources and social support system like helping others who are also in need, going back to work, getting involved in organizations or being a renewed and stronger individual.

E-mail the author at mitchfelipe@gmail.com

Your home is your castle. It is your refuge... your kingdom... Here, you call the shots. And your life goes on just the way you want it to. Whether your home is brand new or newly renovated, it doesn't matter. Whether it is small and cozy or big and spacious is immaterial. The point is, whether you are a family of two or a family of ten makes no difference. What is important is it's yours and yours alone and no one can take it away from you. You are independent. And everything in your home stems from a choice you and your loved ones have made. You don't pay rent. You are not beholden to anyone. Nor are you sharing space with someone you'd rather not.

How is this possible? By getting a BDO Home Loan. BDO Home Loan understands your need to have a home you can call your very own. It gives flexible deals that will fit your budget. Whether you need a home loan for a new home, home construction, improvement, or renovation, BDO's low interest rates and longer payment terms will give you a very light monthly amortization, making it easier for you to manage your finances.

To get started on your own home, call a BDO Home Loan. It's as easy as visiting any of the 700 BDO branches nationwide, where our helpful loan officers are available for extended working hours and weekend operations. They would gladly sit down with you and discuss a package that will truly satisfy your needs. Visit us at www.bdo.com.ph

Broccoli helps strengthen immune system and bones

THE POWER OF SOME FOODS could guarantee immunity from many lifestyle diseases.

It's not just the apple packed with quercetin (powerful antioxidant) that can protect your heart from disease. Broccoli is a power vegetable that may also help keep cancer at bay.

Recent studies have shown that sulforaphane (phyto—plant) and nutrients that help strengthen the immune system and guarantee bone health.

A member of the cabbage family (including watercress, cauliflower, mustard, brussel sprouts, kale, turnip, collards sprouts), the name broccoli comes from the Latin word brachium meaning strong branch, referring to its stem, stem and multiple branches. Dubbed the "Five fingers of Jupiter" by Roman farmers, this vegetable has ancient beginnings.

INSIDE OUT
Cary Quintos

Right now, studies said it's believed that raw, fresh broccoli is a better cure for the common cold than a bowl of oranges. It is good for the blood and helps build up bones. Consider a serving of broccoli as the equivalent of an intake of vitamin C from two oranges.

But what's turning most broccoli is a anti-cancer properties. Rich in phytochemicals sulforaphane and indole-3-carbinol, chemicals known as isothiocyanates, it becomes a strong chemotherapy compound that flushes out cancer-causing substances. Add those cabbages, but less potent than broccoli sprouts. The DK is the ingredient enhances the levels of the most dangerous form of estrogen—estradiol. It elevates levels of the safe estrogen—estriol. The result, lower risk in having breast cancer and endometrial cancer.

A study published by the journal of the National Cancer Institute says that UK can inhibit cancer cells from reproducing up to an amazing 90 percent.

How to handle broccoli

1. Do not microwave or boil because it will cut levels in 97 percent or more of loss.

2. Steam, stir fry or take it raw.

3. Warning: If you have thyroid problems, it is best not to take it as broccoli contains a compound (just like soy) which can prevent your thyroid from absorbing iodine from food.

'Irritating' foods

Foods that irritate your insides can cause inflammation. An inflammatory state stresses the immune system, causing a breakdown in the body's defense against disease.

Avoid sugar from raw cane to refined, artificial sugar, processed foods, red meat, white bread/pastas, dairy, alcohol, caffeine, carbonated drinks, superfatty soft drinks.

Include the following: boiled tuna, nuts, legumes, seeds, berries (especially ACAI and blueberries), fish (especially sardines, mackerel), Atlantic salmon, cocoa bean, whole foods, multi-colored and dark green vegetables, lean poultry, herring.

If you have a weak back or spine, eat food for your back. Raw tuna, sardines, mackerel, sweet potato, flaxseed, whole vegetables, lean poultry, herring. Foods will weaken your muscles. Include complex carbohydrates, low in saturated fats and adequate protein. Think nutrients and vitamin A, fresh fruits and vegetables. Remember that the blood you eat today is your body tomorrow.

Back-saver exercise

Lie flat on your back. Embrace your folded legs to your chest. Hold that pose for 30 seconds. Release, then repeat. This eases your lower back.

Affirm: "Today's best brings me a better tomorrow."

Love and light!

Young widow asks—is there life after death?

HERE ARE TWO RECENT questions from readers:

"My husband died last Aug. 1 of cardiac arrest at age 36. He was in coma for three days.

Everything is terrible. And it's getting worse every day. The pain I am experiencing is overwhelming. I am thinking of ways to end this pain to ease the pain even just a bit. I just want to know where he is now, or if he sees the life and me. Do you recommend somebody?

I have lots of questions in my mind. Is life after death true? Where do spirits go after they leave their bodies? Please enlighten me."—**DEB**

Your questions will take volumes to answer. I have not yet encountered any books like "Exploring the Powers of Your Inner Mind," "True Encounters with the Universe" and its sequel "More Encounters with the Universe."

But here are bold answers:

1. There is no question in my mind that there is life after death.

2. If the dead person does not leave this life himself or herself, he or she is at peace and it's not good to disturb or call on him or her.

3. If that person insists or is still on the earth plane for reasons you and he or she knows.

4. Spirits go to a halfway station called by some the "threshold" place where they undergo some certain test before they move on.

5. Everyone of us has an end. Your husband's time was ahead of you. You will meet again in a heaven like.

Empowering objects

"In your calendar dated Aug. 25, you talked about power stones or crystals. I would like to ask—Are these power stones or crystals in addition or add power to (Q2) (pronounced "Tao") beads and crystals, aside from exposing the stone to the moon, putting it in cup filled with salt, burying it in the earth, or putting it in

INNER AWARENESS
Jayne T. Lizarraga

soaking bowl and rubbing it with your wooden staff? What do you recommend?

Since I have already entered this subject, if I may ask, can you indicate to me briefly on this?

I am quite obsessed with stones. I'm an adventurer at top of me. I'm also a people in a nerby (sic) capital. I've

once seen a big stone and was quickly attracted to it. The only problem, as his own home he could see many the borders anymore and he was forced to abandon it.

So does it help it is having a stainless like color. It changes its color I read on the Internet that if a stone is pale turned for you, you will have a good life. Is it like what a doll to me (No. Thank you, and more power to you and your colonial"—JCO

That was a very fascinating story about your uncle and the big stone with many colors. Some have facilitated since since the beginning for various reasons—for retirement, protection, and even healing.

There are several types of empowering, energizing or refreshing objects. Power words are one of them. But you can be done mentally by a powerful literature while in the depths in one more or meditative level.

I work with a method in my advanced EDP and Higher Awareness course. I'm sure you can find healers, psychics, spiritualists or clairvoyants in Batangas who can help you with this.

If you will organize a group of at least 10-15 people, I can conduct a basic ESP seminar in your area, or any other part of the Philippines. Let me know.

The next freethinker, Karma & Reincarnation seminar will be held May 17, 2-7 p.m. at Rm. 308 Prince Plaza 2 Cond., 148 Legaspi St., Sta.cruz, Manila. Call 3137295, 8159867 e-mail jayne@yahoo.com

Star-spotting and rock-n-rolling at Singapore's F1

MCLAREN racer Lewis Hamilton, in his 1-hr Grand Prix triumph, was too hot to handle, (right) while Pinoy Ilocano-raised sculptor

Text and photos by Anne A. Jambora

Hot cars, hotter celebs

BEYONCE in her first performance in Singapore

F1 has racers in all shapes and sizes.

SOPHIE has eyes only for the racecar driver (pictured)

OVER 1,000 tea blends to choose from at TWG Tea Salon & Boutique

THE PUNTA, Brazilian pop artist Romero Britto

IS THAT PARIS HILTON?" OUR guide asked as a fashionable blonde woman glided up an escalator in Ion Orchard, Singapore's latest high-end shopping destination. The question stirred surreptitious glances from everyone within earshot: Was it really Ms Hilton?

Hotels were fully booked, restaurant reservations had to be confirmed and events firmed, rumors of celebrity sightings filled the air, sheltered black and white flags lined the streets. So this is Singapore on speed. The Formula 1 Grand Prix livens things up.

The only night race on a street circuit, the Singapore F1 Grand Prix, only on its second year, has already attracted 58 million visitors and celebrities. Yet rocks Madonna was rumored to be popping up; even Shakespeare were anticipating blues' Jacobs' visit.

Art

While F1 Grand Prix means hot cars, even hotter racers, serious bragging on the race car just as overwhelming. Art enthusiasts swooped to the Opera Gallery at Ion Orchard for the exhibit of Brazilian pop artist Romero Britto, famous for his cerebral, graffiti-like take on famous subjects such as Michael Jackson, Sarah Jessica Parker, Arnold Schwarzenegger, Princess Diana (in various comic book incarnations), Absolut Vodka, Chanel and even Bradley Mathis.

Another breathtaking art event was the stainless-steel sculptures of Indonesian artist Pintor Sirait, who spent months molding steel into F1 race cars using Asian symbols and expressions in Chinese characters and textile stripes. An F1 race car, riddled with bullets from a .38 caliber, carries the message of the plight of democracy in the world.

Celebrity photographer and environmentalist Sebastian Copeland held an exhibit featuring the glaciers of Antarctica to help raise global warming awareness. He spoke in the "Quest for Sustainability" conference.

Want to sample over 1,000 flavors of gourmet tea? A tea tasting event was held at the new TWG Tea Salon & Boutique at Ion, featuring exclusive tea blends, limited-edition and seasonal blends, and exquisite tea accessories.

If daytime is for the arts and culture, the evening is for adrenaline rush. The sightseeing turned into an energy field of parties at Zouk, an oasis practiced on the street circuit. The unrelenting noise, a most welcome sound by residents and visitors, could be heard even from up the 76th floor ballpad of Singapore's tallest skyscraper and hotel, the Fairmont Stamford.

Rock concert

Thousands swooped to "F1 Rocks," the concert performances spread over three nights at the Fort Canning Park. Attracting an audience of close to 10,000 people each night, "F1 Rocks" featured Nu Deaks, 叶炫清, DJ Sep, Jimple Minds, Black Eyed Peas, Beyonce.

Beyonce, the prize de resistance of "F1 Rocks," sent the audience dancing on their feet. Performing two hours after the electrifying party of the Black Eyed Peas, Beyonce brought a 11-woman band and sizzling choreography and instantly captivated her audience. Cristina Lobat was reportedly booed the night before, when she went onstage to film TV spots. Lobat was there to support her DJ friend Samantha Simons.)

The climax to the climax of the weekend, however, was rendered as entertained for an audience of 200,000 fans around the Marina Bay race circuit for the F1 Grand Prix. It was an evening dominated by McLaren Mercedes as Lewis Hamilton dominated the tracks with his 9.6-second lead over Toyota's Timo Glock.

Hamilton's girlfriend, Pussycat Dolls' lead singer Nicole Scherzinger, who sat next to Black Eyed Peas' Will.I.am during the race, was given her share of camera exposure. Model Jessica Michibata, girlfriend of Brawn GP racer Jenson Button, was also there.

An after-race party at the classic grand dame of colonial architecture, the Raffles Hotel Street Bops, Chaka Khan, John Legend and Wyclef Sara Bolinda.

Everyone was on staggering mode.

"It Bad Hair Hilton?" one guide asked. As if on cue, the blonde girl on the escalator turned around to. She was beautiful, but she wasn't Hilton. Besides, she wasn't skinny enough.

But with or without Hilton, Singapore offered visitors enough glitz and glam to keep them roaming for more for the next evening race.

SHARING moves with the ribbon-cutting ceremony during the opening of SM Center Las Piñas are SM's Hans Christian Sy, former Mayor Imelda Aguilar, Mark Hilar, Diocese of Paranaque Bishop Jesse Mercado, Felimlad T. Sy, Las Piñas Vice Mayor Henry Medina and SM Supermarket president Herbert T. Sy

UNILEVER'S Chris Managagi with SM president Teresita Sy-Coson

OPENING the doors of SM Center Las Piñas are the public are SM Prime Holdings vice-president Jeffrey Lim, SM Hypermarket executive vice president Robert Kwan, SM Supermarket president Herbert Sy and SCMC president Annie Garcia

Supermall's 35th outlet opens in Las Piñas

SM SUPERMARKET PRESIDENT Herbert Sy graced the recent opening of SM Center Las Piñas.

Located at a 28,000-sq m property in Barangay Talon on Pamplona, Las Piñas is the 34,000-sq m SM Center Las Piñas is SM's 35th supermall and the second in the Las Piñas area. The first, SM Southmall, which opened in 1995, is located in the eastern section; SM Center Las Piñas serves customers in the western section of the bustling city as well as in the nearby provinces of Laguna and Cavite.

A simple blessing was held the day before with a counterbalanced Mass led by Bishop Jose Mercado of the Diocese of Kalookan. A ribbon-cutting ceremony graced by Former Mayor Imelda Aguilar, wife of Las Piñas Mayor Vicar Aguilar, Las Piñas Vice Mayor Henry Medina, Mark Hilar and Bishop Jesse Mercado followed. Felimlad Sy, SM Supermarket president Herbert Sy, and Hans Christian Sy joined them.

SM founder and chairman Henry Sy Sr. and SM homeowners vice chairman Teresita Sy-Coson also graced the event and welcomed guests, including Gov. governor Imelda Vilar.

SM Center Las Piñas brings new design elements in its interior—dazzling geometric floor patterns, leaf motifs on curved ceiling blades, and clean and simple lines in the shop fronts. Storefronts are framed with metal channels and integrated signage zones providing a strong framework for merchants to apply their unique identities to stand out in the crowd.

The new community mall has SM Hypermarket as its anchor to serve growing families in the area. Drawn from a Japanese-inspired concept, SM Hypermarket is known for bringing the wet market experience to the mall with produce, seafood, meat and poultry products brought straight from the source in its Hyper Fresh section. The Supermarket's Hyper Grocer, Hyper Markets, Hyper Living, and Hyper Service sections complete the shopping experience.

It also has SM mainstays like M.U. Hardware, Watsons, shops, restaurants, and banking services through BDO to serve shoppers. Its cinemas accommodate 6,000 moviegoers with its 10 cinemas, and parking area, covered carpark for 3,479 slots, provisions for 10 slots, and jeepney terminal.

The design team for SM Supercenter Las Piñas includes DGDS as exterior designer; DMCI, interior designer; JPJR as cultural consultant; DR. Mendez & Associates, project manager; and OCEM, general contractor.

Editor Emmie C. Velarde

ENTERTAINMENT

INSIDE
- Counting the days till MJ 'This Is It' docu film Dollywood /D4
- Who's joining Katy Perry in fundraiser for Ondoy victims? /D4

Felix's postcards from Venice

By Rupert San Diego Jr.

FELIX ROCO, LEAD ACTOR IN FOR ZEE, Jane's "Englesentro," was enamored in London when the Cinemaniac Blog sent two rewards: the top prize in the Oktoberfest reviews and the Luigi De Laurentiis house.

During his six-day stay in the Italian city, Roco sees Hollywood stars Sylvester Stallone, Matt Damon and Jared Leto on the red carpet.

'Surreal'

Roco recalled that when "Englesentro" won, "we got the chance to merely dress the same red carpet where foreign (Oscars) walked..."

It was surreal, Roco said.

After the awards ceremony, he said the main Filipino team had their photo taken with Jury head and Oscar-winning filmmaker Ang Lee. "I couldn't believe that I shook his hands ... Overwhelming."

While there, Roco watched 20 movies. "He hopped from one theater to another," he recounted. "I saw Russian, Indian, Korean, Oscar films."

He saw Lee in "Mr. Nobody" and, of course, the other Filipino entry in "Orizzonti," Brillante Mendoza's "Lola."

"It was very good. We didn't expect that it was the number entry. Lolita was also called Diane [Dellaven's nickname] for a snapshot."

Roco felt elated over the Europeans' warm reception for Filipino films.

"There was a lot of buzz about Filipino films. In every festival, foreigners say that our films are much-anticipated," he said.

The medal's enhancement contained talked even though the movie had technical problems during a press preview. "Some walked out, but the others were really interested in the film."

The most common question thrown by the foreign press floored him. "They asked if I were a real gangster. They really thought I was part of a gang. So when they saw me there in a suit, they were shocked."

He was in Venice last-minded his growth as an artist in a lot of ways.

"I saw table my own eyes what a big deal it is... I'm really glad to be part of world cinema. It is an awesome feeling ... to know that people from different countries watched our film. It's underwhelming."

Now, he said, "I appreciate my craft more. It inspires me to work harder."

On a personal note, he also became more aware of the film's advocacy: human rights.

"It opened my eyes. That is my way of helping people to know from what I really happened in my country," he noted.

Like the small film called "Englesentro," he has gone a long way.

Stinky shirt

In Venice, he was in a suit and stayed in a convent. While showing "Englesentro" in a lake there in the Asia, he wore a sweaty white T-shirt.

All throughout the three-month shoot, the shirt remained unwashed. "It was stinky. It has its helped me get into character."

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THE TOP SELLING ALBUMS in the Philippines for the week Sept. 28-Oct. 4, based on Odyssey Music & Video store chain's nationwide sales report:

Overall

1) "Genie," Girls' Generation, Universal Records; 2) "Monster Of An Imperfect Angel," Mariah Carey, MCA Music; 3) "Runaway," U-KISS, Universal Records; 4) "Love The Album: Music of The Loved Up Series," various artists, Star Records; 5) "Psalms, Mourning, Submerge, Salomat Pres. Cory C. Aquino," various artists, Star Records; 6) "No. 1," Martin Nievera & Gary Valenciano, Universal Records; 7) "Romance Revisited: The Love Songs of Jose Mari Chan (Exclusive Album Ever Edition)," Jose Mari Chan (Exclusive Mitos Ever Edition), Chantalan Kantoria, Universal Records; 8) "Restless," Taylor Swift, MCA Music; 9) "Every Every," Regine Angeles, Universal Records; 10) "Rain On Me," Willie Revillame, Star Records

GIRLS' Generation

OPM

1) "Love The Album: Music of The Loved Up Series," various artists, Star Records; 2) "Psalms, Mourning, Submerge Pres. Cory C. Aquino," various artists, Star Records; 3) "No. 1," Martin Nievera & Gary Valenciano, Universal Records; 4) "Romance Revisited: The Love Songs of Jose Mari Chan (Exclusive Album Ever Edition)," Christian Bautista, Universal Records; 5) "Rain On Me," Willie Revillame, Star Records; 6) "Rendition Of The Soul," Nina, Warner Music; 7) "Giling Giling," Willie Revillame, Star Records; 8) "Addicted To Acoustic," Princess Velasco Music; 9) "Pa Rock Forever," Gloriosa, MCA Music; 10) "Abe Sagarra Live," Abe Sagarra, Star Records

BUSINESS 5/6

CHEER FACTOR

Who's the new Playboy cover girl?

WASHINGTON — Does Heaven know? What will Bert think?

Maxie Shapiro, Heaven's wife and Bert's mother-in-law hit television show "The Simpsons," is the cover girl on the November issue of Playboy magazine.

Playboy released a picture of the cover shot on its Twitter feed, showing Maxie artfully contorted behind a chair in the shape of the iconic Playboy Bunny logo.

The magazine presents a story inside on "The Devil in Maxie Shapiro," an interview and more pictures, including a centerfold pullout.

Playboy said Maxie will be the first serious character to grace the cover of the magazine, which has featured iconic stars, athletes and other celebrities through the decades.

AFP

ENCLUSIVE
OPENS TOMORROW AT GLORIETTA 4 & GREENBELT 3 CINEMAS
From the Director of "How to Lose a Guy in 10 Days" & "Just My Luck"
NIA VARDALOS MY LIFE IN RUINS RICHARD DREYFUSS
Falling in Love... in all the wrong places.
Glorietta Greenbelt

VIEWFINDER

2 'Fame' productions compared

Nestor U. Pierre

IN 1980, "FAME" HIT THE MOVIE SCREEN with all of the audaciousness and exuberance of exceptionally gifted youth. Set in the Fictorian New York High School for the Performing Arts, it followed a group of young students as they acquired the creative performing skills needed by young artists who wanted to make their mark on the arts world in all of their brilliant, prima-donna prodigy.

The musical drama was so inspiring that it motivated many young talents to train hard for a career in the performing arts, and it gradually acquired latent iconic status.

Now, a new version of the movie is set to rise on the silver screen, prompting this buff to ask why its makers felt a new production was needed on power much the same theme that the original movie had so acclaimed as well. We've viewed both features and this can come up with these comparative notes.

The first film excited viewers because its celebration of raw and developing talent was as fresh and vital. The 2009 production suffers in comparison, because it lists some of the iconic notes in the original, so it loses out in terms of originality. But it still ends up as a story that's worth telling, because it updates its young protagonists' back stories and problems to include a number of more relevant issues and concerns.

The new film also benefits from the performances of some exciting young talents, especially those turned in by Naomi Naughton, Kay Panabaker, Collins Pennie and Asher Book.

"Una" demo Maria Perez de Tagle also gets good exposure as a student who drops out of the High School for the Performing Arts, because she's been offered a regular job on a TV show. The role isn't big enough to qualify as a star-making turn, but the Ateneo-based Pinay talent could have done worse.

Biggest liability

The new movie's biggest liability is its makers' decision to include too many elements in its thematic portrayals. This results in a lack of focus that makes it difficult for viewers' involvement to build up and peak.

Yes, there's something to be said for "synergistic" (group) storytelling and ensemble performances, but they're difficult to pull off without losing out on more important considerations like unity, structure and organic emotional building.

The movie's exciting musical finale does enable the production to end on an emotional and empathetic high, but after all those hi-fis plot and character complications failed to dynamically coalesce, it still feels like a cast of too much, too late.

Despite these less than exuberant notes, we're still glad that the new "fame" was produced, because new generations of young talents need to be motivated to develop their talents and make creating and performing their life-long vocation and profession.

Meanwhile, this buff would do well to catch the original "Fame" production on replay on a movie channel on cable, because it still holds up despite the passage of two decades, as a testament to the timeless beauty and quality of good live performances — and dreams that never die.

'True Champions'

Jed Madela and Rachelle Ann Go post up for the first time as duo lifestimes, Bill Kreisler, on Oct. 16. The special show is a Viva Concerts & Events production. Call 911-5555.

Felix's . . .

From page D1

Boys may "mentally" committed to the part.

He did his fun and later showed his lovable scenes that were eventually cut from the film.

He was auditioned for the part, along with other GMA-7 artists.

"I really fought for it and GMA Artist Center helped by my schedule," he said.

Next, he's back to work on the Kapuso series "Sine Siete."

He had just wrapped up two indie films by Joel Lamangan, "Dukot" and "Sagrada Familia," and joined the cast of the Wenn Deramas film "Shake, Rattle & Roll 13," the "Gamang Lupa" episode, with twin brother Jeremiah.

"Engkwentro" will be screened starting Oct. 21 in the Gaumanda Inn at Market! Market! in Taguig for the benefit of Typhoon Ondoy and Pepeng victims.

E-mail: hyperactivefelix@hotmail.com

Korean . . .

From page D1

US Top 10 singles

The best-selling recorded music in the United States, including digital downloads, as they appear in next week's issue of Billboard magazine:

1) "Down," Jay Sean feat. Lil Wayne, Universal Republic; 2) "Party in the U.S.A.," Miley Cyrus, Hollywood; 3) "Run This Town," Jay-Z, Rihanna & Kanye West, Roc Nation; 4) "Whatcha Say," Jason DeRulo, Warner Bros; 5) "I Gotta Feeling," The Black Eyed Peas, Interscope; 6) "Paparazzi," Lady Gaga, Interscope; 7) "You Belong With Me," Taylor Swift, Big Machine; 8) "Obsessed," Mariah Carey, Island/Def Jam; 9) "Use Somebody," Kings Of Leon, RCA/BMG; 10) "Empire State Of Mind," Jay-Z + Alicia Keys, Roc Nation

AP

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MOVIEWORLD

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2 THE UGLY TRUTH
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4 BEYOND A REASONABLE DOUBT
5 FAME
6 G-FORCE (Digital 3D)
7 PIPO
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9 IN MY LIFE
10 TATA & ANGELINA: THE SPOILED BRAT MOVIE

ERMITA

1 PANDORUM / SURROGATES
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METRO EAST

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NOVALICHES

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3 G-FORCE
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FAIRVIEW

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SURROGATES
FINAL DESTINATION 4
TATA AND ANGELINA (SPOILED BRAT MOVIE)
SURROGATES
G-FORCE

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THE UGLY TRUTH
FINAL DESTINATION 4
THE TRAVELERS WIFE
IN MY LIFE
SURROGATES

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SURROGATES
THE UGLY TRUTH
G-FORCE (3D)
SURROGATES
IN MY LIFE
THE UGLY TRUTH
SURROGATES
G-FORCE

CAGAYAN DE ORO

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Counting the days till 'This Is It'

DOLLY WOOD

Dolly Anne Carvajal

JUST LIKE ALL MICHAEL JACKSON diehards, I am counting the days till the MJ movie "This Is It" opens on Oct. 28. I will definitely watch it everyday during its limited two-week run.

I can't help but cry each time the trailer is shown because it makes me feel MJ's passion and determination to make himself his best final concert for the sake of his legions of fans. It's so sad that he didn't give him a chance to take one last bow.

But come to think of it, legends like him never really say goodbye because MJ may also forever through his music. To paraphrase Shakespeare words in his touching tribute to MJ in the MTV Video awards 99: "Unless what MJ says through lessons I've walked this path before, unless one negative story after another is executed about you. You find that your voice can no longer be heard until the chosen persevering you. MJ was a human being like all of us. But during he was and will always be a King." Nobody could have said it any better than Shakespeare. It takes one icon to know another.

Did you know that Madonna and MJ were supposed to appear in the ladies's video of "In the Closet"? Madonna wanted to dress as a man and MJ to dress as a woman. Too bad, the concept didn't sit too well with MJ so he did the video with Naomi Campbell instead. Long live the two giant "M's"—Madonna and Michael.

'Dare to believe'

As a tribute to my all-time idol, let me share with you some of my fave MJ quotes:

"In a world filled with hate, we must still dare to hope. In a world filled with anger, we must still dare to dream. And in a world filled with distrust, we must still dare to believe.

"I wake up from dreams and go, 'Whoa, just this down on paper.' The whole thing is strange. You have the words, everything is right there in front of your face.

"If you never ride world famous, you are loved and you know this would knowing the same, then everything that happens in between can be dealt with.

A veteran before a teenager

"And how good in life is to give to the world what I was lucky to receive: The memory of darker union through my music and my dance.

"I was a veteran, before I was a teenager.

"Children show me in their playful smiles the desire to every one. This simple good news that tonight it was the of hearts and can to take to be loved.

"Who wears memorably? We all some memorably. The reason I love the movies because That's why I bind myself to my work so that it will live on.

"To each people's world look at me as a persons and not just as a pre scientific.

"When paparazzi come, I smile they would write the right stuff."

Back-to-back series

Don't miss the riveting last episode today of GMA TV line Movie, "Kaya Kong Abutin Ang Langit" and "Tonk ni Jekki" (Showdown on Fridays after "Dear Love"). It features Sunshine Dizon and Iza Calzado.

The back-to back series will surely live up your adventurous as the shown bring to light the tragedy of two women to escape poverty as they to reach for happiness. We plays the role originally portrayed by Maricel Soriano in 1994, while Sandara Park as the role played by Nora Aunor in 1995. Tune for Entertainment news!

Personal

Happy birthday to dear Tuesday (B.B.). Thanks for being the talented part of my life. Love you!

Thanks a mil to MTV's sweet, Georgette Tengco, Jed Dorado and cool boss Pamela Lamen for the priceless MJ DVDs. It's all my birthday wishes come true.

E-mail: mamingbalitang@inquirer.net

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EXPERIENCE THE DIFFERENCE
MICHAEL JACKSON'S THIS IS IT

Mother of all music fundraisers

By Pachale Concepcion

THE MOTHER OF ALL MUSIC fundraisers for victims of Typhoon Ondoy (Ketsana) last night for the "Rak'y Party Rocks for Relief" concert, which will also feature major rock, pop and dance acts on Sun. 14 at the SM Mall of Asia open grounds in Pasay City.

Aside from Parokya ni Edgar, an American singer-songwriter who started with gospel and country music before hitting the charts with the pop single "I Heard a Girl"—other current and former artists who have committed to perform are Aiza Pineda and Neil Schon, lead vocalist and guitarist/composer, respectively, of the band Journey, and Jeremy Kushnick, the all-male hip hop dance crew from California, four of whom are Pil-Americans.

Another Pil-based artist, Rivkah Schwartzgen—lead singer of the Pinay-ian Bell—and veteran father is Filipino—is reportedly flying her schedule so she can be part of the concert.

All of these artists, with the exception of Gary, have performed recently in Manila and some very much concerned about the plight of flood victims.

They were contacted by Rikki Bacon, whose US-based Music Management International is teaming up with All Youth Channel (the company that owns MTV Philippines) to mount the fundraiser.

"Although we want to make the concert as big as possible, the logistical expense is quite daunting," says French Lorenzo of AYC. "One possible problem is the place fees, although we hope to get discounts from SM... We want to keep production costs down so we can donate a bigger amount from ticket sales and sponsorship."

This early, Lorenzo has started the ball rolling for such donations. PSL, the new FM radio station he's operating, has promised six media launch and is selling each P1 million from its launch to pay for the relief victims. The concert's official broadcaster is the Philippine National Red Cross, which will supervise how the donations will be used.

Smart Communications and Globe are coming in as sponsors, according to Lorenzo.

MTV Europe and MTV USA are also sending in donations, Lorenzo adds. For foreign donors, Lorenzo is encouraging cash donations instead of clothes or other items because there is talk that packages encounter problems at the Bureau of Customs.

MTV Europe asked me how else they can help," adds Lorenzo. "I told them, if they can bring in somebody like Sting, that would be great ... I need not encouraging more. In the meantime our US rooster, Fifteen, is still talking to Alex tubbs. The concert is still a work in progress."

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